



# HISTORICAL ORATION



JULY 4th, 1876.

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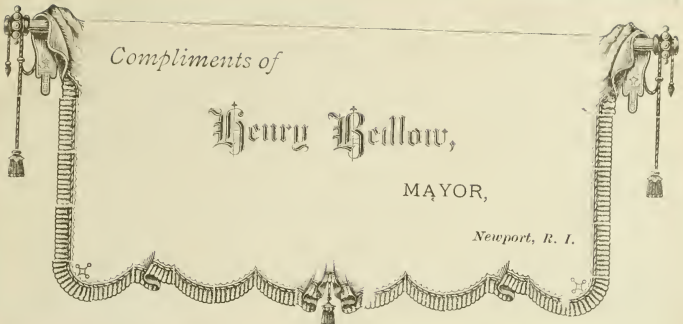
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Henry Bellow,

MAYOR,

*Newport, R. I.*







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HISTORICAL  
ADDRESS,

OF THE

City of Newport,

DELIVERED

JULY 4TH, 1876.

With an Appendix.

BY

WILLIAM. P. SHEFFIELD.



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

NEWPORT:  
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# President's Proclamation.

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*By the President of the United States.*

## A. PROCLAMATION.

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WHEREAS, A joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows :

“Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and the House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching centennial anniversary of our national independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence”; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States,

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

By the President, U. S. GRANT.  
HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

# State of Rhode Island.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

*Providence, April 27th, 1876.*

*To the Honorable City Council of the City of Newport,*

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor herewith to enclose a duly certified copy of a Resolution passed by the General Assembly at its recent Session, requesting me to invite the people of the several towns and cities of the State, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation.

By pursuing the course suggested by the General Assembly, the people of the State will derive an amount of information which will be invaluable to the present generation, as showing the wonderful progress of the several towns and cities since their formation.

It will also be of great value to future generations when the materials for such sketches now accessible will have been lost or destroyed by accident, or become more or less effaced and illegible from time.

Therefore in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly I respectfully and earnestly, through you, invite the people of your city to carry out the contemplated celebration on the 4th day of July next.

HENRY LIPPITT. *Governor.*

# State of Rhode Island &c.

*In General Assembly, January Session, A. D. 1876.*

## JOINT RESOLUTION

ON THE

# CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL

*IN THE SEVERAL CITIES AND TOWNS.*

*Resolved*, The House of Representatives concurring therein, that in accordance with the recommendation of the National Congress, the Governor be requested to invite the people of the several cities and towns of the State, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on that day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation, and to have one copy of said sketch, in print or in manuscript, filed in the clerk's office of said town or city, one copy in the office of the Secretary of State, and one copy in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence; and that the Governor be requested to communicate the invitation forthwith to the several town and city councils in the State.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, on the 20th day of April, A. D. 1876.

{ L. S. }

Witness my hand and Seal of the State,  
this 27th day of April, A. D. 1876.

JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN,

*Secretary of State.*

# City of Newport.

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.

At a meeting of the special committee appointed on the communication of His Excellency, Governor Lippitt, Alderman J. B. Brown was authorized to procure some suitable person to deliver a historical discourse on the 4th of July, 1876. He subsequently reported that the Hon. WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD had consented to deliver the said discourse.

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At a meeting of the Council held June 7, 1876, the following resolution was passed :

*Resolved,* That the sum of \$2,500 be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1876, and that Aldermen J. C. Stoddard, George Denniston, Jr., and Councilmen Weaver, Bull and Cottrell be and are hereby appointed a committee to make all the necessary arrangements for the same.

ONE HUNDREDTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
—OF—  
**AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.**  
**July 4, 1876.**

—♦♦♦—  
ORDER OF EXERCISES

—AT THE—  
**Opera House, Newport,**

COMMENCING AT 11 O'CLOCK A. M.

- O—
- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. MUSIC,                                      | - - - -                      | BY THE BAND.                |
| II. PRAYER,                                    | - - - -                      | BY REV. A. G. MERCER, D. D. |
| III. MUSIC,                                    | - - - -                      | BY THE BAND.                |
| IV. READING OF DECLARATION OF<br>INDEPENDENCE, | BY HON. HENRY BEDLOW, Mayor. |                             |
| V. MUSIC,                                      | - - - -                      | BY THE BAND.                |
| VI. ORATION,                                   | - - - -                      | BY HON. WM. P. SHEFFIELD.   |
| VII. MUSIC,                                    | - - - -                      | BY THE BAND.                |

*BENEDICTION.*

RESOLUTION OF THANKS  
TO THE  
HON. WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD,  
*FOR HIS HISTORICAL DISCOURSE;*

Together with a Resolution ordering the same Printed.

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At a meeting of the City Council held July 6, 1876, the following resolutions were passed:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the City Council be and the same are hereby extended to Hon. William P. Sheffield for the Historical Discourse delivered July 4th, instant; and

*Resolved*, That Mr. Sheffield be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Alderman Brown and Councilmen Bull and Cranston, be authorized to cause two thousand copies of said discourse to be printed in pamphlet form, and have one copy of the sketch filed in the City Clerk's office in this city; one copy in the office of the Secretary of State in Providence; one copy in the office of the Librarian of Congress in Washington, D. C., and the other copies for the use of the City Council.

# PRAYER,

BY THE REV. A. G. MERCER.

O Thou Eternal God to whom a thousand years are but as one day, we, the creatures of a moment, at the end of the hundred years of our nation's life, in humility and adoration bow down before Thee.

Permit us to speak with Thee this day as a man speaks with his friend.

Thou hast created us a nation here far in the west of the world, that we might lead in the great experiment of forming a new hemisphere. Thou hast created us of the best blood of the world, and given us the best traditions, the Bible and all the acquisitions of liberty and of social wisdom. Our fathers began the career Thou didst open, consecrating it with their sacrifices. We became free States—and guided as we think by Thy spirit, made and established an American constitution of liberty and public order, giving to the earth the promise of better eras. Thou gavest us this grand allotment of earth and sky as our home—this soil, this climate, these rivers and mountains and wide skirted plains, and said, “subdue and possess.” And now at the end of a hundred years, by energy, by art, *we have* subdued and possess, and hold the continent from sea to sea.

And here to-day we present before Thee this continent and all its riches; this vast population with all its power and virtues; this new democratic world dedicated to man; we present it all before Thee—thy gift, with thanksgiving and praise and the voice of melody! So far as we have done well—and in many things have we not done well, O Lord? so far, accept it graciously, and may the whole people humbly glad hear thy voice, to-day, saying “Well done good and faithful servant.”

But, O Lord God, we have sinned—not so much this people as those of us who are the natural leaders of the people—and to-day, after a hundred years, after all our gains of power and riches, we must take to ourselves shame and say, that among all our gains we have not gained—surely not as we ought—in character and in public heart; we have grasped for self, and neglected the common weal, and even our good men are not always good citizens. We deplore our unenlightened and prejudiced suffrage; we deplore the folly of the citizen and the incompetence of the ruler; we deplore our conceit and irreverence, that we do not know what to look up to; that our best men are not our highest men. We deplore the sinking standard of common honesty and of public and private honor.

But O, where we have done ill—and have we not done very ill? surely we are, still thy people, and wilt Thou not pardon us and correct us in thy mercy, and fill our lives with patriotic energy, that henceforth we may be faithful workmen of the State?

Take away, O Lord, if Thou wilt, all this Centennial glory—take it all from us, but give us in its place, abundance of public honor, the “Righteousness that exalteth a Nation,” and so, out of darkness, make this people into a pillar of fire, leading forward toward the land of Promise and Hope.

O, divine Father! in profound humility, in unbounded gratitude we offer this our service of Solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.



Address.



## ADDRESS.

The Puritans and the Cavaliers, the Independents and the Episcopalians, agreed that God was to be worshiped; they differed only as to the form of worship, and this difference was the primary cause of the settling of the New England colonies by British subjects. True the spirit of adventure, and the advantages of trade, contributed to this end, but the controlling influence operating upon most of the Puritan emigrants, was the desire to worship God in accordance with their convictions of duty.

The Puritans were agreed in opposing the Established Church, but they had not stopped to consider if they were agreed upon the grounds of their opposition. Some were opposed to the corruptions of the Church, and were in favor of purifying it, and despaired of accomplishing their purpose but by a revolution in existing systems and establishing others, which should be more exacting in their demands, requiring a more fervent piety, and a greater self-denial; while others objected that the hierarchical form of government practiced in the Established Church, was not calculated either to advance Christianity, or to open the largest field for usefulness to the members of the church.

When the separation from "the mother church" was complete, and when the Puritans were establishing a church in America, upon which they were to rear a commonwealth,

while their minds were highly excited upon religious topics, it is not surprising that differences of opinion upon church polity should arise among them, nor is the occasion for surprise diminished when we reflect that the only road open, which was apparent to them, for the gratification of ambition, was through the church.

What was thus natural, and to be expected, arose in the Puritan colony of Massachusetts Bay; for they came to America to found a church, and a commonwealth based upon the church. This done, the majority of them claimed the church and the commonwealth which they had founded in their exile, to be theirs,—theirs to control, —theirs to enjoy. A few of their number with no higher purpose, but with broader conceptions of human rights, a firmer trust in the capacity of the masses of men, and a higher ideal of duty to God, ventured the opinion that the church was the church, not of the Puritans, but of Jesus Christ, its founder and head, and that the commonwealth was the King's commonwealth, under whose license it existed; and that the Puritans had no right to exclude the humble followers of the Saviour of mankind from His church, or the King's loyal subjects from a place in his commonwealth. The majority prevailed, and compelled the unyielding minority to leave their homes in Boston and depart from the Christian commonwealth.

John Wheelwright who had been a classmate of Cromwell at Cambridge, vicar of Bilsby, silenced by Archbishop Laud for non-conformity, and had emigrated to America, was pastor of a church in Braintree. He was a kinsman of Ann Hutchinson<sup>1</sup> and had some sympathy with her religious opinions, in consequence of which a controversy arose between him and Mr. Wilson, the pastor of the Boston church.

This matter was brought before the General Court, and Wheelwright was censured.

Against this judgment of censure, William Hutchinson, William Aspinwall,<sup>3</sup> William Dyer,<sup>4</sup> John Sanford,<sup>5</sup> Samuel Wilbor,<sup>6</sup> Thomas Savage,<sup>7</sup> Edward Hutchinson,<sup>2</sup> Richard Carder,<sup>8</sup> John Porter,<sup>9</sup> William Baulston,<sup>10</sup> William Freeborn,<sup>11</sup> Henry Bull,<sup>12</sup> John Walker,<sup>13</sup> Mr. Clarke,<sup>14</sup> and John Coggeshall,<sup>15</sup> of Boston, Philip Sherman,<sup>16</sup> of Roxbury, and others protested; and from it William Coddington<sup>17</sup> and Randall Holden<sup>18</sup> dissented; the former having opposed its rendition in the General Court. For this act, on the 2d of November, 1637, the sixteen persons first named were disarmed.

On the 12th of the next March, the General Court notified William Coddington, John Coggeshall, William Baulston, Edward Hutchinson, Samuel Wilbor, John Porter, Henry Bull, Philip Sherman, William Freeborn, and Richard Carder, that they had license to leave the colony, and that if they did not depart before the next Court, in May, 1638, they were commanded to then appear at court, to answer such objections as should be objected against them. Nicholas Easton,<sup>19</sup> of Salem, was warned to depart at the same time, but in a separate order.

William Brenton<sup>20</sup> had incurred the colonial displeasure for being contaminated with the opinions of Wheelwright and Hutchinson, and having opposed their being censured in the General Court.

The persons whom I have named, were the founders of the colony of Rhode Island, and whatever may be said about the intervention of other causes to induce the banishment of Roger Williams, and the settlement of Providence, I have

never seen it stated or heard it intimated, that the founders of the colony of Rhode Island were disarmed, had leave to depart and were threatened with further orders, if they did not leave, for any other cause than for the religious opinions which they entertained, and their protest against the censure of Wheelwright for his religious opinions.

The men who founded Rhode Island, were among those who had been most conspicuous in the Puritan commonwealth, "men," says Callender, "who were in repute with the very best for their holiness and zeal." Among them were men of culture, and all of them had there enjoyed social position and most of them official distinction. Yet the hard fate of the times befel them, and they became the exiled of exiles, Puritans of Puritans and in their new-found home they were permitted to assist in laying the foundations of a new society, based alike upon civil and religious liberty.

These colonists passed beyond the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and of Plymouth, and landed at Portsmouth. Here they incorporated themselves into a civil society, not according to the forms and constitutions of the countries from which they came, but in accordance with the lofty aspirations of their own pure hearts, and the circumstances which surrounded them.

Through the kindly offices of that great man, Roger Williams, they had obtained the Indian title to this Island from the Narragansetts, who had recently conquered it from the Wampanoags; but they had no charters or laws for their government but those which are written on the heart and rest in the consciences of men; but on the 7th day of March, 1638, they solemnly, in the presence of Jehovah, incorporated themselves into a body politic, as he should help, and promised that they would submit their persons, lives and

estates unto the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in his holy word of truth, to be guided and judged thereby. Thus it may be seen that this first charter of our civil rights rests upon the broad principles of the Golden Rule.

The founders of Rhode Island were exiled from England by the dread of the Tower of London. The fires of Smithfield lighted their way to the abodes of savage men and the wilds of native forests: the full force of persecution had not yet been exhausted, the unrelenting hand of destiny would not let loose its grasp; for there was a denser forest not yet penetrated; more formidable tribes of savages, which had not yet been encountered. Another trial was necessary to be had to separate the gospel of perfect freedom in religion from the accumulated dross of ages. Into the crucible of this other trial our fathers were cast, and from its retort they evolved the idea of spiritual liberty, to light the wanderer in the way of life out of the darkness and gloom of the religious intolerance of all the past; a light which has since been expanding, and yet continues to expand over the world like the rays of a new-born day.

The colonists provided for the assignment of lands to the settlers, the erection of a meeting-house, and regulated other affairs at Portsmouth; and in the spring of 1638-9, the majority of the settlers removed to the southwesterly part of the Island and there laid the foundations of Newport.<sup>a</sup>

Here they laid out their lands subject to certain public rights of fishery, passed an order that no one should be accounted a delinquent for doctrine, and did many acts in regulating their prudential affairs. They soon received considerable accession to their numbers of persons, who like

themselves, had been oppressed for conscience. They appointed Mr. Easton and Mr. Clarke to inform Sir Henry Vane of the condition of things here, and to request him to endeavor to obtain his Majesty's charter for the people of the Island.

In 1640, the town employed Robert Lenthall to keep a public school,—the first public school in America, and possibly the first school accessible to all, supported by the public charge, in the world.

As early as 1641, there were at least two hundred families on the Island. That year it was unanimously ordered that "the government or body politic of the Island and the jurisdiction thereof in favor of our prince, is a democratic or popular government; that is, it is in the power of the body of the freemen orderly assembled, or the major part of them, to make and constitute just laws by which they will be regulated, and depute from among themselves such ministers as shall see them faithfully executed between man and man."

In the beginning of 1640, the colony at Newport received further accession to their numbers from Portsmouth, and ordered that the chief magistrate should be called governor, and the next, deputy-governor; and the governor and two assistants should be chosen from one town, and the deputy and the two other assistants should be chosen from the other town, and that the town at the north end of the Island should be called Portsmouth; and in May of that year, a court consisting of magistrates and jurors, should be held in Newport and in Portsmouth. The magistrates were the governor, deputy-governor and assistants. This is the commencement of jury trials in Rhode Island.



In September, 1640, Governor Coddington was ordered to write to the governor of the Bay, that they would communicate their councils concerning their agitations with the Indians.

In the records of the Massachusetts General Court, under date October 7, 1640, is the following order, viz: "It is ordered that the letter lately sent to the governor by Mr. Eaton [of New Haven], Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Haynes [of Connecticut], Mr. Coddington, and Mr. Brenton [of Newport], but concerning also the General Court, shall be thus answered by the governor, That the Court doth assent to all the propositions laid down in the aforesaid letter, but that the answer shall be directed to Mr. Eaton, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Haynes only, excluding Mr. Coddington and Mr. Brenton, as men not to be capitulated with at all by us either for themselves or the people of the Island, where they inhabit as their case standeth."

Thus early the inhabitants of Rhode Island desired to enter into a league with the other New England colonies for mutual defence, and were prevented from doing so by the arbitrary action of the General Court of Massachusetts; and the defenceless people of Rhode Island were left to the tender mercies of the Indian savage.

In 1648, May 25, Governor Coddington in a letter to Governor Winthrop states that some of the people on the Island are in disgrace with the people of Warwick and Providence.

September 8 of the same year, Coddington and Alexander Partridge made a formal request of the United colonies to be admitted into that alliance, and their request was formally answered by the suggestion, that if Rhode

Island desired the protection of the United Colonies, it had better submit to the jurisdiction of Plymouth.

In 1644, it was ordered that the Island, commonly called Aquidneck, shall from henceforth be called the Isle of Rhodes, or Rhode Island.

March 14, 1643, a charter was granted from the Lord Commissioners to the inhabitants of Providence, Portsmouth and Newport under the name of the Providence Plantations, in the Narragansett Bay in New England, with authority to rule themselves in such form of civil government as by voluntary consent of all, or the greater part of them, they should find most suitable to their estate and condition.

This charter was not altogether satisfactory to the people of the Island. They did not like the name of the colony. It had been granted upon the particular application of the Providence and Warwick people, with whom they were not in complete unity, without the concurrence of the inhabitants of the Island, and the name of the Island had been omitted in the new name for the colony.

This want of unity kept open the acceptance of the charter and the organization of the government up to 1647 when the people of the Island presented a body of laws, which was accepted by the other colonies, and the charter government was then organized. Under this charter, the title of the chief magistrate was President, and William Coddington was elected president in 1648, and William Baulston was chosen one of the assistants. Owing to certain charges having been made against these officers, they were suspended in office, and if Coddington was found guilty, or from other causes the office should be vacant, Jeremiah Clarke was to fill the office.

November 4, 1651, Warwick and Providence appointed Roger Williams to go to England, to obtain a confirmation of their chartered privileges, the towns on the Island having withdrawn and fallen off from the charter government.—Coddington obtained from England a commission to be governor of the Island for life.

This proceeding of Coddington was offensive to many of the inhabitants of the Island, for sixty-five of the inhabitants of Newport and forty-one from Portsmouth employed Mr. John Clarke to go to England, to procure the commission of Coddington to be vacated. Williams and Clarke took passage in the same ship.

Orders from the Council of State in England having arrived suspending Coddington's government, the Assembly met at Portsmouth, March 1, 1652, to receive them, when it was ordered that the officers obstructed by Coddington's commission, should stand in their places, and act according to their former commissions as if they had been annually chosen, until a new election; and an election was appointed to take place the Tuesday succeeding the 15th of the then next May.

No General Assembly met, however, on the Island, until at Newport, May 17, 1653, which was an assembly of the electors of the Island only. This assembly assumed control of the government of the Island. They proposed that if Warwick and Providence would be pleased to act with them, that those towns might elect their own officers. They then sent James Barker and Richard Knight to demand the Statute Book and Book of Records from Governor Coddington. Coddington informed the messengers, that he would advise with counsel, and then return an answer; for he dare not lay down his commission without order thereto;

they made some provisions for assisting in the prosecution of the war against the Dutch ; provided for the adjudication of prizes brought into Newport. and for the adoption of the Laws of Oleron.

A commission was granted to Edward Hull, to go against the Dutch, or any of the enemies of the commonwealth of England. This was the commencement of privateering in Rhode Island. The action of the Island Assembly in reference to the Dutch war, brought a lively protest from the Providence-Warwick Assembly.

Yet these Assemblies soon united upon terms of settlement. They then commissioned the Deborah, to go against the enemies of England ; and on the 13th of September, 1654, they approved of the instructions presented by Mr. John Clarke, in reference to his mission to England, and desired that Roger Williams and Mr. Dexter should manifest as much to Mr. Clarke.

Roger Williams returned from England in 1654, leaving Mr. Clarke then sole agent of the colony.

In 1655, Cromwell wrote to the colony, authorizing it to continue its government under the charter of 1643.

In 1656, Mr. Coddington was chosen one of the commissioners for Newport to the General Court, when he declared that he freely submitted to the authority of his Highness in these colonies as now united, with all his heart.

Upon the return of Charles II to the throne, John Clarke then the sole agent in England of the Providence Plantations as well as of the Island of Rhode Island, presented to the crown two petitions for a charter for the colony, which should give the inhabitants full liberty in religious concerns, and a larger measure of civil liberty than was then

enjoyed by any other civilized people on earth. This petition was granted, and November 24, 1663, at a meeting of the General Court of commissioners held in Newport, Mr. Clarke's letter was opened and read with good delivery; and the King's Gracious Letters' Patent with the broad seal thereto affixed, were received, and read by George Baxter: and this charter remained the fundamental law of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations for one hundred and eighty years.

This charter was the fruit of twelve years' toil of John Clarke in England, during which time he had expended all of his available funds, and had mortgaged his private property to promote the object he had in hand.

But the object of his mission had been attained; the charter was secure, and his title to be known as the greatest benefactor of the colony was fully earned.

Notwithstanding the depreciating remarks of Graham, I firmly believe that there was not then a better balanced mind than Clarke's in all America, and Rhode Island never had a more devoted friend. He was prodigal of himself in her service, and when he died he gave the remnant of his fortune for the relief of her poor, and the bringing up of her children to learning. "The grand motive which turned the scale of his life," says Roger Willams, "was the truth of God—a just liberty to all men's spirits in spiritual matters, together with the peace and prosperity of the whole colony."

Several of the early settlers of Newport were merchants, and a considerable commerce grew up with the Dutch at New York, and with the English at Barbadoes, and between the colony and other places.

After the battle of Sedgmoor, in 1685, the followers of the

Duke of Monmouth were many of them sold to go to the Barbadoes, and from this class and from other sources Rhode Island continued to receive considerable accessions to its population, and Newport was by far the most flourishing town in the colony up to the Revolution.

In January, 1664-5, Roger Williams who though not the author was the defender of the charter, said, that the charter "gives liberty of our estates \* \* \* not a penny to be taken by any one from us without every man's free debate by his deputies chosen by himself, and sent to the General Assembly. Liberty of society or corporation, of sending, or being sent to the General Assembly, of choosing, and of being chosen to all offices, and of making or repealing laws and constitutions amongst us."

The colony acted upon this claim, and asserted that as between themselves and the British government, this charter was to be construed as a contract or perpetual covenant, and that as such, it was irrepealable by the King and parliament of England without the assent of the colony: that as between the government and people of the colony, the charter was their fundamental law. The charter, said they, was on the one hand binding on the British government, and on the other hand, was alike binding on the government and people of the colony.

Indeed, the charter contained a provision to the effect that it should, as against the crown and government of England, be a sufficient warrant and discharge for all acts done under and in accordance with its provisions.

Yet the British government by duress attempted its abrogation with all the New England charters in 1686, and appointed Sir Edmund Andros as governor of the New England colonies, who broke the seal of the charter, and assumed

the government of Rhode Island; but the revolution in England of 1688, put an end to the Andros government; and had Andros been disposed to persist after that event, in oppressing the colonies, he probably would have been sent to his God without the intervention of judge or jury, but as it was, he was sent home, and the colony resumed the charter; and continued to act under it, and treated as void its vacation or surrender as an act done under duress.

Almost from the foundation of the Rhode Island Colony, there was a class of the colonists who did not fully accept the faith and order of the Baptists, or the doctrines of any recognized sect of Christians. These were denominated "Seekers." They accepted the scriptures as they were revealed to them, but awaited further revelations through the operations of the Holy Spirit. The arrival of the Quakers in this country about 1656, and in subsequent years, and the inhospitable manner in which they were received in the other colonies, induced these people to come to Rhode Island and the "Seekers" here readily affiliated with the Quakers, who soon became a very important element in the colony. And this sect has always formed an important part of the population of the State, and though now they are much scattered, there remains a few in standing amongst us, who remind us of the pastoral oaks in the summer field, they bespeak the character of those whom they represent, and are a perpetual benediction to all about them.

In Philip's war the people of Newport took but little part beyond affording succor to the white victims of the war who came to them for protection. They were shut out from the united colonies, yet they constantly kept watch and ward, fearing that they might be attacked by the Indians. Mr. Easton's house was burned by an Indian, but it is by no

means certain whether this was the result of accident or design; few of the people of Newport took part in that war.

The French war which followed the Indian war, between 1685 and 1695, was the source of considerable annoyance to the people of Newport from depredations occasioned by French cruisers.

In 1709 and 1710 the colony was called upon by the home government to fit out a force to act in conjunction with forces from the other colonies against Annapolis Royal. Newport raised between fifty and sixty men to go on this expedition. The colony to pay the expenses of this expedition, in an evil hour, commenced the issue of paper money. Though the expedition of 1710 was successful, the colony lost a vessel and incurred a large expenditure of money.

In 1730 the population of Newport was 4,640. At that time the population of Providence, which embraced what is now the county of Providence with the exception of Cumberland, East Providence, and that part of Pawtucket east of the Seekonk river, was but 3,916.

In 1738 there was belonging to Newport upwards of one hundred vessels engaged in commerce with various parts of the world.

War was declared between France and England in the spring of 1744. Our coast swarmed with French privateers, to the great detriment of the commerce of Newport, and especially of its fisheries. But privateering was a service in which two parties could engage, and as the war was not altogether unexpected, the merchants and seamen of Newport were not altogether unprepared for the emergency. There were many privateers fitted out from here and during the year 1745 more than twenty prizes, "some of them of great



value, were sent into Newport," and notwithstanding the annoyances from French privateers the commerce of the place was exceedingly prosperous during the war.

The colony fitted out its sloop *Tartar* with ninety men, under Captain Fones, with three companies, to go against Louisburg. Captain Fones, off Cape Breton, encountered a French frigate, and by a skillful manœuvre rendered good service to the expedition. The merchants, principally of Newport, advanced £8000 to hire a twenty gun ship for that service, and the agent of the Rhode Island colony, Richard Partridge, wrote to Mr. Ramsden, Secretary of the Lords Justices, that "in the wars of the late Queen in the expedition against Annapolis Royal and against Canada, and in the sea-war at that time, the New Englanders must confess that the privateers from the colony of Rhode Island did more execution against the enemy's privateers that infested this coast, than all the ships of the Massachusetts, or indeed, of all the colonies of those parts put together."

In 1758 the *Newport Mercury* was first published by James Franklin, the nephew of Dr. Benjamin Franklin.<sup>21</sup>

In the later French war, from 1756 to 1763, the commerce of Newport suffered much from French privateers, Newport having lost more than 100 vessels by capture. But during this period Newport had nearly 50 vessels engaged in privateering.

The passage of the stamp act, and the restricted trade laws which passed Parliament soon after the close of the war with France, greatly irritated the people of Newport. The constant presence of British cruisers, under the command of arrogant officers, interfering with the commerce of the port, and forcibly impressing seamen from our mercantile marine,

was a constant threat to the hundreds of privateersmen who had been trained to adventures of daring and desperation such as had no rival, if equalled, in the annals of naval warfare, could not readily submit to the constant menaces which they were receiving from British cruisers.

The people of this colony from the beginning, as we have seen, claimed that their charter was a compact with the British crown, a contract which even Parliament could not break. That by this charter the colony had the exclusive right of self government, including the sole right to tax themselves.

The British government claimed the right to govern and bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever. Here the parties took issue in trial by battle, which was not finally settled until the treaty of Paris in 1783.

The Rubicon was soon passed, the torch of Ate lighted, and the dogs of war let slip. The news of Concord and Lexington set the town on fire with the determination to resist the encroachment upon the rights of the country, to death.

It has been said that 1000 men from this town alone went out to engage the foe upon the sea, and 1000 such men never before went out from any one port to fight upon the deep. Many of them had been trained under such commanders as Dennis, Read, and other privateer commanders.<sup>21a</sup>

What was Newport in 1774? the year before the breaking out of the war. It was full of commercial enterprise. Its maritime adventures extended everywhere not prohibited by the Home government. Newport had earned and was then better entitled than any other port in America to the glowing commendation bestowed by Edmund Burke in Parliament upon American maritime enterprise.

In the year 1763 from January 1st to January 1st, 1764, after the losses by the French war, there were 182 vessels cleared from Newport on foreign voyages, and 352 had cleared coastwise, and in these and in fishing vessels were employed 2200 seamen.

In the two months of June and July, 1774, there were entered at the Custom House in Newport 64 vessels from foreign voyages, 132 coastwise, and 17 engaged in the whale fishery.

The population of Newport then was 9,209 souls, but the events of the succeeding year reduced this number by 4000.

There were at this time thirty distilleries in operation in Newport.

Perhaps the people of Newport possessed in 1774 as much wealth, enterprise, intelligence and refinement as any other place in America.

There were then 300 families of Jews in Newport, represented by men of great learning, intelligence and enterprise, but they are all gone; the dwelling houses which they erected, their synagogue and their grave-yard are the only memorials left to us of their existence. Let no vandal hand of desecration ever be laid upon that synagogue or that grave-yard, but let them remain, and keep them preserved forever as venerated memorials of a frugal and useful people, who in their day and generation contributed to the prosperity and renown of Newport.

But let us pause to consider the acts which preceded the Revolution: In Rhode Island there were three causes which may be said to have induced the people to enter into the spirit of the Revolution, viz: Taxation, impressment of seamen, the jurisdiction conferred upon the admiralty courts.

To these may be added the refusal of the British government to pay a debt due to the colony for advances made by the colony during the Seven Years' War with France.

The first act of open resistance to the British authority which has come to our notice, took place at Newport on the 9th of July, 1764. On the 18th of the preceding June, rear Admiral Lord Colville, in command of his majesty's ship, the *Squirrel*, and other armed vessels then in American waters, advised the home government that he had directed four of the armed vessels to spread themselves in the principal harbors between Casco Bay and Cape Henlopen, in order to raise men for the navy.

The *St. John*, under command of Lieutenant Hill, came into the harbor of Newport on the 30th of the same June, (1764). Upon the arrival of this vessel, her commanding officer was informed that the brig *Basto*, from Monte Chriso, under command of one Wingate, had landed a cargo of sugar, at a place now called Bridgeport near Howland's Ferry in Tiverton. The *St. John* immediately started for Bridgeport, seized the cargo of sugar, ninety-three hogsheads, and the next day seized the brig as she lay above the ferry, and brought the vessel and cargo to Newport.

Upon the arrival of the vessels at Newport, it was ascertained that Lieutenant Hill had never been properly qualified on his commission, and the collector of customs resealed the cargo. Lieutenant Hill was arrested and compelled to give security that the vessel and cargo should not be taken out of the jurisdiction of the colony.

On the 9th of July, while these vessels were in the harbor of Newport, including the Admiral's ship, the *Squirrel*, it was alleged that three of the crew of the *St. John* had com-

mitted a larceny in the town; one of the offenders was caught on shore and arrested, and the town officers went on board the St. John and demanded the other offenders, but they were not given up.

The commanding officer of the St. John sent an armed boat fully manned, on shore, ostensibly to get one Thomas Moss, who it was alleged was a deserter; whether he was the thief or had been put on board by the *press gang*, does not appear, for the story is told by British officers,—at any rate the people assembled on the Long Wharf and would not permit the man to be taken away. The St. John fired a swivel at the crowd. The people took Mr. Doyle, the commanding officer of the boat into custody, and in the *melee* wounded most of the boat's crew, and they threatened to haul the schooner on shore and burn her. A sloop was manned from the wharf which sailed around the St. John, when a swivel was fired from the St. John as a signal to the Squirrel for assistance. The St. John was got underweigh, and was anchored under the protection of the guns of the Squirrel. The people from the shore went over to Fort George, now Fort Woleott, and took possession of the guns of the fort. An officer from the Squirrel arrived at the fort to remonstrate against the use of the guns, but he was knocked down, beaten and sent away. The guns were then trained on the offending vessel and eight shots were fired at her.

Arthur Brown,<sup>22</sup> a native of Newport, in his miscellaneous writings, p. 227, says: "I myself saw one American fort fire upon the Squirrel, a King's ship, in 1764, in the harbor of Newport."

Captain Smith waited upon the governor and council and demanded a proper acknowledgment. He was told by them

that the men had acted by authority, and that the government would answer for it when it was necessary for them to do so.

Rear Admiral Lord Colville called upon deputy governor Wanton, in reference to the matter, and the admiral was told by the deputy governor that he must pursue his legal remedy.

The stamp act had been passed, and Dr. Moffit, Augustus Johnston and Martin Howard had been appointed to carry it into effect in Newport on the 27th of August, A. D., 1765. The people of Newport assembled on the Parade on that day, in front of the State House, having with them a cart and the effigies of three stamp officers with halters about their necks. These effigies were carried to a gallows and were hung up to public view until near night. The people assembled on the following day; and broke in the doors and demolished the furniture in the houses of Moffit and Howard. The three stamp officers took refuge on board of a British armed vessel in the harbor.

On the 30th of the same August, the collector, controller and searcher of the customs, followed the example of Moffit, Howard and Johnston,<sup>23</sup> and left the town, taking up their abode on board of a British armed vessel in the harbor. In September the General Assembly resolved that the British Parliament had no right to lay any internal taxes on the people of this colony, and they directed the officers of the colony to disregard such levies, and that the Assembly would indemnify the officers in so doing.

The offence of the officers of the customs at Newport, was the seizure of a sloop by the *Cygnet*, with a cargo of molasses, and the proceeding to condemn her before Dr. Spoy, in a court of admiralty at Halifax.

On the 11th of June, 1765, the ship *Maidstone*, a British armed vessel in the harbor of Newport, had seized and impressed several of the inhabitants of the colony to act as seamen on board of that vessel. Governor Ward had repeatedly demanded the liberation of these men, but his demand was not complied with. After the men were impressed the boat of the *Maidstone* happened to be on shore, when she was taken possession of by the populace and burned.

Governor Ward addressed a very spirited letter to Captain Antrobus on the 12th of July, again demanding the liberation of the impressed seamen.

One Champlain, who was in the habit of furnishing supplies for the *Maidstone*, was seized, and forcibly prevented from supplying the ship, of which conduct the commander of the ship complained to Governor Ward. The latter replied that this conduct of the inhabitants was the result of the resentment they had conceived at the impressment and detention of sundry inhabitants of the town on board of the *Maidstone*.

In June, two vessels with cargoes, the *Wainscott* and the *Nelly*, had been seized in Providence, and had failed of being condemned in the admiralty court of Rhode Island. This was the pretext for sending the case of the sloop and cargo taken by the *Cygnets* to Halifax for adjudication.

The officers to execute the Stamp Act declined to accept their offices and no stamps were offered for sale in Rhode Island. The Stamp Act was repealed, but its repeal was accompanied with a declaration in favor of the right of Parliament to tax the colonies.

The officers of the colony addressed themselves with zeal to the collection of their dues from the British government

for the advances made by the colony during the French war. They had received drafts on Connecticut and Pennsylvania, which were deficient in their quotas, for a part of their claim, but there was a large balance yet due to the colony. The reply came—you first pay Moffit, Howard and Johnston for the damages done by the mob—a condition that was never complied with. And the claims of the colony have never been paid. The British government honestly owes the amount with the interest thereon, to Rhode Island now.

As soon as the Stamp Act was repealed, the government again opened a correspondence with the home government in reference to the claim of the colony for advances made during the French war. The claim was earnestly pressed, its justice was not denied, but its payment was refused.

In May, 1769, a sloop from the West Indies belonging to Providence, was seized by the armed sloop Liberty and carried to Newport.

On the 17th of the following July, the officers of the Liberty seized and brought into Newport a brig and a sloop belonging to Connecticut, taken in the Sound, without the jurisdiction of the colony. This seizure was on Monday: on Wednesday the captain of the brig went on board to obtain some necessary articles of clothing, he was informed that his clothing had been taken on board of the Liberty. He observed some of the crew of the Liberty stripping his vessel and desired them to desist, but received the most abusive language in reply. He then proposed to go on shore but missing his sword civilly inquired for it: and was informed that one of the men from the Liberty lay on it in the cabin. The captain went to the cabin for the sword and was accosted with a volley of oaths and imprecations. The captain



then took his sword, when it was seized by one of the Liberty's men who attempted to wrest it from him, but did not succeed. The captain then got into his boat with two of his men. When he was going on shore from his vessel, he was fired upon with a brace of balls from the Liberty; a swivel was then levelled at the boat but it flashed. There was a large number of people on the wharf witnessing this extraordinary proceeding. At the time Captain Read, of the Liberty, was on shore, and he was compelled by the inhabitants to order his men on shore, to answer for their conduct.

A number of men from the shore went on board and cut the cables of the Liberty, and brought the vessel to the wharf; cut away her mast, rendering her unfit for service, and scuttled her; afterwards she was got over to the north end of Goat Island and burned. The boats were dragged up the Parade, so swiftly over the pavements, that they left a stream of fire several feet long in their rear. They were taken through Broad street to what is now Liberty Park, and there they were burned.

There was no evidence of any illicit conduct against the brig. Her cargo was regularly entered at the Custom House in Newport.

While the Liberty was being destroyed, the Connecticut sloop, which had been seized, got underweigh and left the harbor, and afterwards the brig obtained a regular clearance from the Custom House and left Newport.

May 3, 1768, an affray occurred at the foot of Mary street in Newport, between some midshipmen belonging to the Senegal, a British man-of-war, in the harbor, and some of the people of the town, in which Henry Sparker was run through the body by a British officer named Thomas Curless.

In 1769, the people of Providence assembled in great numbers and violently seized one Jesse Saville, a tide-waiter belonging to the Custom House, while in the exercise of his duty, and after committing various outrages upon his person, proceeded to tar and feather him.

In April, 1771, the collector of the port of Newport, Charles Dudley<sup>24</sup>, while in the execution of the duties of his office, prescribed by the British government, was assaulted by a body of the people, who denied the validity of his official acts, and he was roughly handled. This conduct was the subject of a letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to the governor and company of the colony, under date of July 19th, 1771, in which the Earl complains, "That it appears that some of the most violent of these outrages (on the officers of the customs), have been committed at Newport in Rhode Island, particularly in April last, when the collector of his majesty's customs at that port was, in the execution of his duty, assaulted and grossly ill-treated, even to the danger of his life, by a number of the inhabitants without any protection being given him."

The destruction of the Gaspee in 1772, is a subject too familiar for discussion at this time.

December 6th, 1774, more than forty cannon, with a large amount of powder and shot, were seized and taken from Fort George, now Fort Wolcott, and conveyed to a place of safety.

Wallace, the commander of the British force in the harbor of Newport, waited upon Governor Wanton<sup>25</sup> and demanded an explanation of this act. Governor Wanton told him that "It was done to prevent him from seizing the guns, and that they would be used against any enemy of the colony,"

Andrews, the British historian of the Revolution, says, "Newport, the capital of Rhode Island, was the place where these proceedings first commenced. Forty pieces of cannon, mounted in the batteries that protected the harbor, were carried off by the inhabitants. The captain of a man-of-war, having waited upon the governor, who in that Province is chosen by the Assembly, to inquire into the cause of such a proceeding, was explicitly told, that the people had seized them that they might not be used against themselves by the British forces; and that they intended to employ them in their own defence, against any one that should attack them.

"After taking this measure the Assembly met, and agreed that arms and warlike stores should be purchased with the public money. Resolutions were passed for training the inhabitants, and every man was expected to prepare himself for a vigorous defence of the rights and liberties of his country. The colony of New Hampshire had hitherto acted with great moderation during these disturbances; but on receiving intelligence of the proclamation forbidding the export of arms to the colonies and of the proceedings in consequence of it at Rhode Island, they resolved to imitate them."

The people of New Hampshire seized the cannon at Portsmouth, with the munitions of war, and stored the powder under the pulpit of the Congregational Church.

May 4th, 1776, the General Assembly of Rhode Island, in session in the State House in Newport, repealed the act securing the allegiance of the people to the British crown, and ordered that the use of the King's name be discontinued in all papers and proceedings in the colony. Thus just two months before the 4th of July, 1776, the people of Rhode Island threw off their allegiance to the British crown and set up an independent State.

The Newport Mercury, then published by Solomon Southwick,<sup>26</sup> and contributed to by such men as Ezra Stiles<sup>27</sup> and Samuel Hopkins,<sup>28</sup> did much to arouse the people to the duties of that time. The history of Newport can never be faithfully written without assigning to these men a prominent place among its benefactors.

After the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia, and on the receipt of that declaration in Newport on the 18th of July, 1776, the General Assembly met and ratified the declaration, and pledged themselves to support it with their lives and fortunes. The declaration was then read to the people by Major John Handy from the Court House steps, and fifty years later it was again read by the same individual to the people, from the same place.

The General Assembly then declared the style of government of the State to be the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and enacted a law to punish all persons who should in any way acknowledge in this colony the sovereignty of Great Britain.

The people of Newport had often met together, and had often resolved that they would die or be free. The news of the fighting at Lexington and Concord came to ready minds and willing hands. The guns fired that day echoed and re-echoed over the land, vibrated and re-vibrated, and the sound never died away, until it was hushed in the Treaty of Paris.

The legislature was at once convened, and an army of observation, consisting of fifteen hundred men, was raised. Wanton, then governor, would not commission the officers, but Henry Ward, Secretary of State, was ordered to sign the commissions and did so, no doubt, cheerfully. In the fol-

lowing October, a second regiment, of seven hundred and fifty men, was ordered to be raised, and then Wanton was removed from office.

Captain James Wallace, in command of the British sloop of war *Rose*, commanded the harbor of Newport for the first two years of the war, and inflicted great distress upon its inhabitants; and on the 6th of December, 1776, the British army under General Clinton took possession of the town, and retained it until November, 1779.

The battle of Rhode Island was fought in August, 1778. In July of that year, the French fleet under Count de Estaing, consisting of eleven sail of the line, and a large number of transports, arrived at Newport, but this fleet retired before the battle on the Island.

Just two years later, July 10th, 1780, Admiral Count de Rochambeau arrived with another fleet, consisting of forty-four sail, and six thousand troops.

Captain Wallace retained command of Newport harbor up to April 14th, 1776, when his force was so annoyed by the continental troops under Colonel Richmond, that he went to sea. He encountered Admiral Hopkins off Block Island, and then returned to Newport, but was again driven off. Four days later the *Cabot*, one of Hopkins' fleet, arrived in Newport with ten pieces of heavy cannon, a part of the armament which had been captured at New-Providence. During the skirmishing with Wallace, two row galleys from the town took a brig and a sloop, which were prizes to the British ship *Scarborough*. In December, 1777, a large British fleet of transports entered the harbor of Newport with the view of taking on board the army of General Burgoyne, and about

the 1st of January, 1778, the Bristol and several other British war vessels arrived, which created alarm and apprehension at Providence and throughout the State.

The Providence Gazette of January 10th, 1778, contains an appeal which exhibited the condition of affairs then prevailing in Newport. It reads thus, viz: "The charitable and well-disposed persons in this and neighboring States are requested to extend their donations to the poor and distressed people who were lately inhabitants of the Island of Rhode Island, men and women bowed down with old age and infirmities, helpless children, persons with large families, having lately been driven from their once peaceful habitations and turned into the wide world, destitute of every means to support themselves, by the cruel and rapacious Britons and their mercenaries, who have stripped them of the small pittance they were once possessed of, and have left them to depend entirely upon the charity of the good people. Their distresses loudly call upon the humanity of those whose circumstances will admit to relieve the necessities of those who are almost ready to perish."

From this time until the town was evacuated by the British, contributions were received from States, towns, parishes, religious societies, companies and individuals.

In the fall of 1777, General Spencer in command of Rhode Island, proposed to make an effort to take Newport from the enemy. The British commander received intelligence of the intentions of General Spencer, and made preparations to resist the proposed attack. He raised the stream which enters Easton's Pond, by the construction of dams, threw up a line of breastworks from Miantonomi Hill across to the pond, and sent some sixty of the inhabi-

tants of the town on board the prison ship *Lord Sandwich*<sup>29</sup>; there was also a number of the inhabitants imprisoned in the Newport jail.

General Clinton relinquished command of the British force on the Island in January, 1777, to Earl Percy. Earl Percy retained the command until the 5th of the following May, when General Prescott took the command, who was afterwards captured by Barton and his associates at the "Overing place."

In 1778, General Sullivan was ordered to collect a force to attack the British on Rhode Island.

General Prescott, having been exchanged, arrived in Newport, with the Thirty-eighth Regiment, two regiments "of Anspatch", Colonel Fanning's new corps and a detachment of artillery.

The French force under the Count de Estaing, arrived on the eleventh day of July. Two of the French ships entered the west passage and came around the north end of Conanicut. The others came in and anchored in the outer harbor. The enemy blew up the *Kingfisher*, 16 guns, and two galleys in the East River upon the approach of the two French ships. The *Lark*, 32, the *Orpheus*, 32, the *Juno*, 32, and the *Cerebus*, 28, were run on shore and burnt. The *Grand Turk*, a transport of eleven hundred tons burthen, was set on fire at her moorings off the Point; when her cables were burnt off, she drifted up against Dennis's wharf, where her hull was sunk. Fifteen transports were sunk between what is now Fort Adams and the Gull Rocks. The *Flora*, 32, with the *Falcon* sloop of war, 18, and about thirty unarmed vessels of various sizes were sunk in the inner harbor. The *Flora* was finally raised and put afloat by the

Americans, after the evacuation of the town by the British. Sir Robert Pigot superseded General Prescott in the command of the British army before the battle of Rhode Island.

The French naval force would not co-operate with the army, and the battle of Rhode Island of August 28th and 29th, 1778, was lost to the Americans. In the following November, there were twelve ships of the line and two frigates in the harbor of Newport. On the 22nd of December, 1778, occurred the snow-storm known as "the Hessian snow-storm," in which considerable numbers of the British force were frozen to death. The British left the town, October 25th, 1779.

The Quaker field was their forage-yard. Their wood yard was on the north side of Church street, and General Prescott's head-quarters was the Bannister house on the corner of Spring and Pelham streets. In summer the British soldiers were quartered in tents, and in winter in the houses in town. It is said that four hundred and eighty buildings of various kinds were destroyed in Newport during the war.

The freemen convened in town-meeting at the Friends' meeting-house on the 3rd of November, 1779, for purpose of re-organizing the town government. Town-meetings were afterwards held in this meeting-house, and then in the Jewish synagogue.

The winter of 1779-80 was the most severe on record. The people of Newport were then destitute of almost all of the necessities of life. They took down George Rome's house and store, and broke up Joseph Wanton, Jr.'s ship, and distributed them as fuel among the poor. The story of



“the hard winter” of 1780 is too distressing and too familiar to be dwelt upon.

The public buildings of the town including State house, jail and churches, had all been left in an untenable condition with the exception of Trinity church, and the pastor of that church went off with the British army. The Rev. Gardner Thurston, a Baptist minister, was permitted to occupy this church for some years after the war.

The British carried off the records of the town, and these were sunk in Hell Gate, and were so injured that the greater part was rendered worthless for any practical purpose.

On the morning of March 6th, 1781, General Washington crossed Conanicut and landed on the Long Wharf in Newport, to confer with the French officers then here, and to induce them to co-operate in an expedition against the enemy in Virginia.

After the evacuation of Newport by the British, the people of the town continued to fit out a few privateers. The Rochambeau, 12, under the command of the celebrated Oliver Read, was fitted out, and took several prizes.

At the close of the war, John Goodrich, who had been an ardent Loyalist during the war, applied to Newport for permission to settle here with his family, and proposed to bring with him twenty vessels to engage in commerce, but considering the active part Goodrich had taken in the war, the people of the town by a large majority voted that he should not settle in the town.

During the Revolution, there were in the Provincial armies 231,959 men. Of these were furnished from New England 118,350, more than half of the entire force; Newport alone, it has been said, furnished 1000 men to the naval

service of the colonies. Rhode Island furnished to the Continental army 11,692 men out of a population of 50,000. I have been told that at one time Rhode Island had more soldiers in the Revolutionary army than all of the States south of Mason and Dixon's line, and during the latter part of the old French war and after the close of that war, Rhode Island was called upon and did, at a very great sacrifice, actually furnish a very considerable force for the defence of the northern frontier of the colony of New York. Upon these services with others, the States of New England, under the Constitution, assert their rights in the American Union.

In Newport, as elsewhere, there were Loyalists. Some of them took an active part in favor of the crown; these left the colony. Conspicuous among them were the Romes, Brentons, Halliburtons, Wantons and others. There was another class whose sympathies were with the crown, and who, without being open, active enemies, declined to give their adherence to the Revolutionary cause. When General Heath took command of the Continental forces on the Island, the town called upon all persons to subscribe to a test oath, and those who refused to subscribe, had their names taken, and the same constituted what was known as the "Black List," and was handed to General Heath, as being the names of suspected persons who were to be dealt with in an emergency. That list remains yet among the records of Newport, and may be consulted by any one who has the curiosity to examine it.

At the close of the Revolutionary war Newport presented a sad spectacle. Hundreds of buildings had been destroyed, the vessels and wharves had gone to decay together. The Loyalists had gone into exile, and many of their estates had been confiscated. Non-combatants, who early in the war had

left their homes, had become domiciled elsewhere, the business capital of the place had been exhausted, the war had forced business into other channels and its men of affairs had followed their trade to other localities. The forests and groves of native trees had been cut down, the farm fences had been wasted, farm stock had been consumed, and farm tools had been worn out; schools broken up, churches scattered, houses deserted, buildings out of repair and ruin was stamped on everything which eight years before was alive with prosperity and full of every promise that success in its full tide would crown the efforts of an industrious, intelligent and enterprising people. Upon the return of peace Newport had neither the men nor the means to restore or replace the ravages which war had made.

At about the time of peace Dr. Ezra Stiles returned to to visit the remnant which was left of his devoted church. He had accepted the Presidency of Yale college, and was in the enjoyment of great popularity in New Haven. In his diary is an entry which states a fact, and conveys an eloquent expression of his devotion to the home from which he had been exiled. "I judge," says he, "that about 300 dwelling houses have been destroyed in Newport. The town is in ruins, but, with Nehemiah, I could prefer the very dust of Zion to the gardens of Persia, and the broken walls of Jerusalem to the palaces of Shushan."

Brissot, the Girondist, while he was in exile from France in 1788, visited Newport. He was not a friendly critic, but draws a picture of what he saw, which we may study with profit. After speaking of Newport before the war, he adds : "Since the peace everything is changed, the reign of solitude is only interrupted by groups of idle men standing with

folded arms at the corner of the streets, houses falling to ruin, miserable shops which present nothing but a few coarse stuffs, or baskets of apples, and other articles of little value; grass growing in the public square in front of the court of justice, rags stuffed in the windows. \* \* \* \*

Everything announces misery." The unkind Frenchman, after denouncing paper money and its consequences, adds: "But in the midst of these disorders you hear nothing of robberies, of murders, or of mendacity, for the poor do not degrade themselves so as to abjure ideas of equity and shame. \* \* \* The Rhode Islander does not beg and he does not steal."

Newport was then an asylum for famine; the war had destroyed it, and taken from its population the means of rebuilding it. They had liberty, but nothing else. The times were unpropitious. The Revolution was followed soon by the quasi war with France, and the war between England and France, involving the orders in council, the decrees of Berlin and Milan. Then came the embargo of 1808, which was followed by the war of 1812. These events visited disaster upon the efforts made to revive the trade of the place, drove commerce from the port, and labor from the workshops, so that for fifty years after the Revolution there was scarcely a new house built in the town.

At the close of the Revolution, America was grateful to France for the aid it had given her in its contest with England for national existence. The natural attractions of Newport, and of the island of Rhode Island, had fascinated the Frenchmen, and France, as an evidence of American gratitude, coveted the cession of this island, on the plea that it would afford a suitable naval station for France, and that

it would be impossible for the United States to defend the island against Great Britain, but fortunately for us, and fortunately for the American union, the advances of France in this negotiation were resisted, and this island to-day remains the garden of the Republic.

The experiences of mankind demonstrate that a circulating medium without any intrinsic value and depending alone for its conversion or redemption upon the public faith, that when it becomes highly inconvenient for the public to redeem its pledge, the result is disastrous to both public and private credit.

The first issue of paper money in Rhode Island was for the purpose of enabling the colony in 1710, to fit out an expedition against Annapolis Royal.

Paper money was finally made a legal tender, by an act of the General Assembly. The subject was one of active party contests, and finally visited upon the colony discredit and pecuniary embarrassment. The merchants and people of Newport, with the exception of a few ambitious politicians, were constant in their opposition to the paper money party. The paper money party opposed the adoption of the federal constitution, which the people of Newport ardently promoted.

At the September term of the Supreme Court, 1786, held in Newport, occurred one of the most remarkable trials in the judicial history of the State. It was the case of Trevett vs. Weeden. Weeden kept a market and Trevett had purchased of him butcher's meat, and had offered to pay for it in paper money. Weeden declined to accept the tender, and Trevett filed his information against Weeden to recover the statutory penalty for his refusal. Weeden defended the suit on the ground of the unconstitutionality of the statute. The

trial was exciting, party spirit ran high, the judges had been elected by a paper money legislature, and at the next spring election they were to be dependent upon the same body for a re-election, yet the court kept its integrity and declared the law to be unconstitutional. The General Assembly brought the court before it to give reasons for its decision. The members of the court told the Assembly that they were responsible for their judgments only to God and their own consciences.

In May, 1784, Newport was incorporated under a city form of government. In 1787 the city had assumed the defense of a suit of Nicholas Easton vs. Giles Sanford, for taking gravel from Easton's beach. Easton procured the signatures of 105 persons to a petition to repeal the city charter, as a retaliatory measure for interfering in his law-suit, and though there were 400 remonstrants against granting the prayer of the petition, Easton and his party prevailed, for the majority of the people of Newport were hostile to the paper money of that time, and were not in favor with the party in power. March 1st of this year Peter Edes started the Newport Herald, based upon opposition to paper money.

In 1708, April 17th, the board of trade wrote to the Governor of the colony in reference to the African slave trade, informing him of "the absolute necessity that a trade so beneficial to the kingdom should be carried on to the greatest advantage." At that time the population of Newport was 2,203, and the entire population of the colony was 7,181.

The trade of Newport then was with Jamaica, Nevis, Barbadoes, St. Christopher's, Mt. Sarratt and Bermuda, and the Salt Islands, South and North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland, and the other colonies, Madeira, Fayal, Surinam, and Curacoa.

After having been stimulated by the home government, though but few slaves were brought into this colony, there were persons in Newport who were engaged to a considerable extent in the slave trade; but while this is true, it is equally true that Newport had some of the earliest and most effective enemies of this traffic and of human slavery, who if not the originators, were the warm and earnest friends of African colonization.

Newport has almost always sustained a good classical school. Frazer's school was thorough in its instruction, and Rogers' school was known the country over. The object of a school is to direct and train the mind of the young for future usefulness, and if the success of a school is to be judged by the success of the pupils who attend it, the old Rogers school should be classed among the first institutions of its kind then in the country. The new Rogers school now so full of promise of future usefulness, if it rivals or equals the fame of the school where the Channings, the Perrys, the Allstons, Pickingses and Calhouns were trained, it will amply repay the bounty of its benevolent founder, and will lay the foundation for a new era in the history of the city. Our system of education is supplemented by the Redwood and the People's libraries. Of the former institution its history has been often written; of the latter I can only say its benevolent founder and benefactor is yet among us, and the time has not come to write its history.

Newport was subject to conflicting influences at the time of the breaking out of the war of 1812. It had had a terrible experience of the effects of war during the Revolution. The orders in council, and the decrees of Berlin and Milan had affected its commerce adversely. The impressment of its seamen into a British service, and an attempt to hold

them even in its own port,<sup>30</sup> had incensed the old privateersmen, and stirred the blood of younger seamen, and aroused the resentment of all right minded men. The embargo of Mr. Jefferson was a restraint upon their trade, inflicted by their own countrymen, that seemed to effectually check their efforts to regain something of their former prosperity. Then there was a considerable class of men full of enterprise, accustomed to the dangers of the sea—men who had known and been instructed by a race of seamen whose actual adventures surpassed all the tales of fiction, who were anxious to go out under the stars and stripes in defence of “free trade and sailor’s rights,” and to contest the right of the Red Cross of England, unchallenged, to rule the seas.

In the exigencies of that war it became apparent that the force on the northern frontier was to be strengthened. The British fleet on Lake Erie was officered and manned by seamen who fought under Nelson at Trafalgar; and a force was to be selected which was to finish vessels begun, and construct other vessels to meet in deadly conflict the most chivalrous veterans of the British navy. In command of the flotilla in Newport harbor, was one who was of a daring line; he had been trained in our schools, and was in command of those he had known and who had known him from childhood. This force was ordered to Lake Erie. There they cut down the forest, threw it upon the lake, and manning it, went out upon that great inland sea to meet the conquerors of the armada of France, and the result of the battle of the 10th of September, 1813, was recorded in those memorable words now familiar and to be immortal, “We have met the enemy and they are ours.”

Yonder granite shaft marks the grave, but history has embalmed for immortality the memory of Perry and his



Newport comrades, and the valor which conquered on Lake Erie.

After the treaty of peace of 1815, Newport had become so exhausted, that little effort was made to regain anything of its former prosperity until subsequent to 1830, when an attempt was made to revive the whaling business, and to engage in manufacturing enterprises, and the natural attractions of the place began to be better known and more highly appreciated as a summer resort.

In the attempt to subvert the charter government by force in 1842, Newport was strongly on the side of the government, and perhaps it is not too much to say, that had not Newport thrown her influence so strongly in favor of the government, the result of that contest in the State, upon which the success of popular government everywhere might have been pivoted, possibly, would have been in doubt.

In the late Southern rebellion, Newport, true to her history, was earnest and prompt and faithful and continual in her support of the government, but on an occasion like this, it is hardly proper that I should attempt to open the smouldering embers, or to remove the ashes from the wasting fire. The facts, however, exist, and the history and honor of the city is preserved.

During the last century, wonderful strides have been made in the advancement of mechanical science and industrial art. Watt and Fulton, Stephenson, Morse and Arkwright, have all lived and died within that period, but their wonderful inventions survive to ameliorate the conditions of human life and to contribute to the civilization and happiness of the human race.

The grandest scene in the centennial exhibition now open in Philadelphia; the most exalted personal achieve-

ment, was on that opening day, of a Rhode Island mechanic standing with his engines, the work of his own genius, which were to furnish the power to operate the vast machinery there to be put in motion, while a president and emperor with hands upon the wheels awaited the direction of Mr. Corliss to start those mighty forces which were to move as with life into action, the complicated mechanism before him, and to put upon exhibition the condition of mechanical art in all the States of christendom. That scene was worthy of being represented on canvass, to be placed upon the walls of every workshop and hung up in every school room in the land.

Every old house in Newport, every grave-yard, indeed every field, almost every foot of ground, is associated with some man or event worthy of being consecrated in history. By yonder shore the devout Mary Dyer often bowed in worship, and there moved by an inner consciousness to duty, resolved to face opposition and proclaim the gospel of peace in Boston to friends from whom she had been exiled. She went and was persecuted there, and again and again returned to her home here to receive another message from the teachings of the spirit to go to the Puritan commonwealth and there receive a martyr's crown. Here, too, are the graves of Clarke, Coddington, Sanford, Coggeshall, Bull, Brenton, Easton, and their compatriots who preferred liberty in exile among savages, to the intolerance and oppressions of their former associates. There is where the Baptists of Newport claim to have established the oldest church of their faith in America. There, too, is old Trinity, where Berkeley used to preach, near by where he wrote his "Alcephron" and his "Course of Empire." And yonder is the Old Stone Mill, the enigma to antiquarians. Here, too, was once the home of DeCourcy,<sup>31</sup> Sir Charles Wager,<sup>32</sup> and Arthur

Brown, Dr. Waterhouse,<sup>33</sup> Sir Brenton Halliburton, Admiral Sir Jahleel Brenton, and his brother, Edward Pelham Brenton, the philanthropists and the historians of the British navy. Here, too, lived that rude, daring character, known in history as James Murray, otherwise Lillibridge,<sup>34</sup> who towards the close of the last century acted so conspicuous a part in the events which transpired in Hindoostan.

Here, too, in the house, now the Children's Home, was born William Ellery Channing,<sup>35</sup> whose philosophy in religion was the refrain of the harsh theology of the Puritans, and which was to react upon the teachings of the Puritans until there is danger that the seed which they sowed to the wind may yet be gathered in the whirlwind. We, too, have the Redwood Library, the headquarters of Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette and Prescott, the house of Perry and the place where the Decatur<sup>36</sup> family lived; but the mind wearies of these details.

Washington wrote of the excellence of our climate; Volney, the infidel Frenchman, admired its salubrity; Chastelleaux in his enthusiasm desired to be buried in our soil, that the roar of our ocean might perpetually sing a requiem over his grave. Count de Segar and Lausanne and St. John, were enchanted with the revolutionary society of Newport, as was Blanchard and DuxPonts; and our lovely Island Home dearer, a thousand times dearer to those of us who stand here among ancestral graves than to others, annually receives a tribute to its attractions from thousands of the opulent and refined made up of those from every Christian land. Channing thanked God that this beautiful island was the place of his birth. I thank God that the ancestors of my children stood by the cradle of the Rhode Island colony, assisted in nurturing it into a hardy manhood, and that this ancient municipality holds their ashes entombed in its bosom.

To-day our nation begins a new era in its history, with ampler means at its control to surpass in the future all of the achievements of the past, for we have vast fields of our country yet unsubdued and uncultivated. The commerce of the world is open to our enterprises, and we are at full liberty to gather the harvest from our industry in every land; free education is within the reach of all, and there is a pulpit in every neighborhood from which all are instructed in their duties to man and to God.

True, there are immoralities and corruptions practiced over the land. But so it has been since our first parents parted in sorrow from the Eden of their rest; virtue has since then been warring with vice, and men have been gathering and consuming that for which they have not toiled. But in no age of the world has the popular conscience been quicker to detect or resent crime or wrong than in that age in which a benevolent Providence has cast our fortunes.

One hundred years of our national existence is completed to-day. Three millions of people have been increased to forty-five millions; thirteen colonies have become thirty-eight sovereign and independent States. At the beginning of the century the colonies, in poverty and distress, were engaged in a war for existence. They were contending with the most powerful empire on earth. Now we are at peace and in the enjoyment of a larger measure of liberty, of prosperity, and happiness than is vouchsafed to any other people on earth. The ballot is the motor which keeps in operation the whole machinery of our government; the intelligence, integrity, industry and enterprise of our population is the bulwark which the Republic has reared in defence of its institutions of government. Our nation's flag is respected on every sea, and our country is the hope of the oppressed of every land. True, slavery revolted against the government

and struck the country, but the blow recoiled and slavery was killed. Now let us heal the wound that war has made, stretch out our arms to bridge the chasm, and strike hands with our repentant, offending brothers; bind them anew in the bonds of union, and engage them in the divine mission of perpetuating our republic, and of realizing the grand idea of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are free and equal; we with them will enlighten the ignorant, encourage the weak, elevate the down trodden, stimulate the enterprise of all, and embark our country upon the new century in its high and holy mission of raising man everywhere to a higher and better condition, nearer, and yet nearer fitted for the Paradise of celestial rest.

The prosperity and growth of every place depends upon the industry, energy, enterprise, intelligence, economy and integrity of the people who inhabit it. What Newport needs in entering upon another century is men—men inspired by a genius that will evoke and utilize all of the forces of our population to develop the best results to themselves and to the city of which these forces are capable. We should never be unmindful that there is a useful field of employment open to every man and woman in the land; no person of a sound body and a sound mind has the moral right to live like the sloth, and without exertion, to live only to eat, drink, sleep and die. If all of the resources of our people could be called out and economized in promoting the growth of the city, the city would not only surpass all of its ancient achievements, but would outstrip in its growth and advancement all of its contemporaries.

Our shores are accessible to the commerce of every land, every industrial art is within our grasp, capital is the saving of labor, and labor is open to all, so that capital is within the

reach of all. The unemployed and wasted forces, including the wastes incident to useless and vicious habits, and of overstocked trades, if skillfully directed and economically employed, would in a few years build a city.

A word in reference to the day we celebrate. This is the nation's Sabbath—the day in our calendar consecrated by the grandest declaration of human rights recorded in the history of the human race. Half a century from the day when this declaration was promulgated, Adams and Jefferson, its framers and defenders, died. Six years later, James Monroe, who had held the highest office in the gift of the people, died on the anniversary of the nation's birthday. In the late civil war the rebel hosts were turned back from Gettysburg, and the rebel fortress at Vicksburg surrendered on the 4th of July, and then the fortunes of the rebellion began to ebb, and by these deeds this day was again consecrated to observance. Were these coincidences in time of the happening of events the results of chance? Is there not something in them to stimulate in us the inquiry whether they were not designed by a superintending Providence to induce us to perform our duty, and arouse in us a sense of responsibility to our country?

All that we have of protection of persons and property we hold from the State. The State can demand for its defence to the last penny of our fortunes, and then take our persons to fight its battles. I have said enough to-day to recall to your minds the sufferings, the trials, and the sacrifices which have been made for the blessings which we enjoy. I would to God that I had the power to infuse into the mind of every freeman in the land a true sense of the responsibility upon us all to preserve for ourselves and posterity in their utmost purity, the institutions of government which have come down to us.

# Biographical.





## SIR CHARLES WAGER.

Toward the close of the sixteenth and in the beginning of the seventeenth century, Newport had become a place of considerable commercial importance. It was at this time that ship captains, who sailed out of Newport, were among the more important personages in the colony, and used to wear cocked hats, "kneed-breeches," and ruffled shirts. At that period, Capt. John Hull was conspicuous among these captains. He had taken on board his ship an apprentice boy by the name of Charles Wager. This boy remained with Captain Hull until he became Hull's chief mate. The good captain was a Quaker, and a good story is told of Hull and his *protege* which illustrates the trials to which *Friends* have at some times been subjected, and how unexpected a change took place in the fortunes of young Wager. Hull's ship had left England, and with a leading breeze was pressing for her American home, when one of those French *corsairs*, not unfrequently encountered at that time, half privateer and half pirate, bore up across Hull's track and backed topsails to await the approach of the Quaker craft. The latter was full manned, as well as was his would-be adversary. The situation was at once taken in by all on board. But what was to be done? The good captain had to stand by the *testimonies* of his faith. Young Wager answered this question. He told the captain that he had better go below. The captain took this advice and left the mate in command. The mate spread every inch of canvass he could open to the breeze, and directed the good ship, as he supposed, for the broadside of his adversary. But the captain, though he had

retired from the command and had withdrawn from duty, continued to see what was passing, and was heard by the mate to say: "Charles, if thee is determined to run that vessel down, thee had better luff a little." Charles took his captain's advice, and in a moment more Captain Hull's staunch ship crushed in the side of the corsair. Then came one of those terrible hand to hand sea fights that distinguished that time. The contest was for the possession of Hull's ship, for the other was disabled, and the contest was for life and death. Men were cut to pieces or were thrown into the sea, or were otherwise dispatched as quickly as possible. Of this struggle the good Quaker was an active observer. He noticed that a rope loosely hanging overboard was suddenly drawn taut; his quick eye divined the cause. He caught his hatchet, and in an instant was in the waist of his ship by the rail. A stalwart foe was using the rope to board the Quaker vessel; a well aimed blow of the hatchet parted the line, and the Quaker captain calmly remarked, "friend, if thee wants that line thee can have it." The mate saved the ship; she went on her voyage, and the story of the gallant conduct of the mate eventually reached the British Admiralty, into whose service he was taken. This gallant officer finally became Sir Charles Wager, first lord of the British Admiralty. Upon a bill promoted by him in the British parliament in 1740, to promote the efficiency of the British navy, Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, made one of his most effective speeches.

The name of Wager, preserved in some of our Narragansett and Conanicut families descended from Capt. John Hull, is derived from the apprentice of their ancestor.

In my childhood I attended school, kept in a house in which a descendant of Captain John Hull resided; an elderly gentleman and his wife made up the family; they were poor then, but had seen better days. The engraved likeness of Sir Charles Wager, highly prized and well cared for by its possessor, hung upon the wall above the fireplace, and though more than forty-five years have elapsed since I saw it, I re-

member how it looked, and the interest with which old Mr. Robert Hull told the story of the life of the apprentice to his ancestor.

Sir Charles Wager was born October 26, 1666. June 7th, 1692, was appointed captain of the *Razee*, fire ship, and from her he was soon removed to the *Samuel and Henry*, 44. In 1696 he had command of the *Woolwich*, a 54, employed in the channel fleet. Soon after the accession of Queen Ann, he took command of the *Hampton-Court*, of 70 guns. and was with Lake at the taking of Majorca. Upon his return from the Mediterranean. he was dispatched in 1707 with a squadron of nine ships of the line to the West Indies, having under his convoy a valuable fleet of merchantmen. Here he received information that the French Admiral Du Casse had put to sea for the purpose of protecting some Spanish galleons. On the 28th of May, 1708, he descried the enemy's fleet, comprised of 17 sail, galleons and ships of war, standing towards Carthagená; he took the largest two of the enemy's ships. He shortly afterwards, by a vessel from England, received a commission as rear admiral of the blue, and on the 2d of December, 1708, was made rear admiral of the white. He remained in the West Indies until 1709, where his fleet succeeded in capturing many prizes. On his return to England he was made rear admiral of the red, and on the 8th of December, of that year, he received the order of Knighthood. After the accession of George I, he was appointed commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, and at about the same time comptroller in the navy, and on the 16th of June, 1716, he was made vice admiral of the blue, and on the first of the ensuing February, was made vice admiral of the white, and on the 15th of March, vice admiral of the red, and in 1718 was appointed lord of the admiralty, when he resigned the comptrollership of the navy. He performed many active services at sea, and in June, 1731, was made admiral of the blue, when he took command of a large armament, and was charged with the duty of executing the treaty of Venice. Having performed this duty he returned to England.

June 21st, 1733, Sir Charles Wager was made first lord of the admiralty; in the January following he was made admiral of the white, and on the 19th of March, 1741, resigned his place at the admiralty board. He was then appointed treasurer of the navy, which place he held up to the time of his death, May 24th, 1743. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a splendid monument was erected to his memory.

Tristram Hull was an inhabitant, and liable to bear arms in the town of Yarmouth, in Plymouth colony, in 1643, and purchased from the Indians a tract of land for the town of Barnstable, July 19th, 1644. Hull was a master mariner. In 1657, an old man in Boston by the name of Nicholas Upsall, who was a member of the Boston church, had disapproved of the treatment of the then recently arrived Quakers: indeed, Upsall was counted a Quaker, for on the 14th of the previous October, he had been found guilty of this heresy, and had been sentenced to a fine of £20 and to banishment. Captain Hull being in Boston, took Upsall with him to Sandwich. Plymouth colony not being any more reconciled to the Quaker than Massachusetts, sentenced Upsall "to be carried out of the government by Tristram Hull, who had brought him."

Tristram Hull had two sons—Joseph, born in June, 1652, John, born in March, 1664. These sons were both Quakers, and both came to and settled in Rhode Island. Joseph settled in Kingstown. He had a son Tristram who married Elizabeth Dyer, a grand-daughter of Mary Dyer, who was executed in Boston. John Hull married Alice Teddeman in 1684, and settled at Newport in 1687, out of which port he sailed for many years, and finally, he purchased and went to live upon a farm in the north part of Jamestown, where he died.

After Captain Hull retired to his farm, a British fleet, probably upon its return from a West India expedition, visited the harbor of Newport. Captain Hull, upon this occasion, called at the coffee house to pay his respects to his

former *protege*. He met a lieutenant, and in the vocabulary of the captain's sect, he asked the lieutenant, "where is Charles?" This manner of speech the junior officer regarded as an insult to his admiral. The admiral being at once apprised of the affair, stepped out and rebuked his subordinate by saying to him, "Captain Hull is my honored master."

Several letters recognizing the relations which existed between Sir Charles Wager and Captain Hull, are yet extant.

Admiral Goodson, said to have been the grandfather of Sir Charles Wager, was an officer of the British navy in the time of the commonwealth, but for having expressed some opinion in favor of the restoration of the Stuarts to the throne, was retired from office. At the restoration of Charles II, he was overlooked, and he finally came to America. His descendants intermarried with some of the first families in Newport. There is a tradition that he was buried in the Hull burying ground at the north end of Conanicut.

Admiral Goodson commanded the rear admiral's squadron of eleven ships, in the great naval battle with the Dutch, fought on the 2d and 3d of June, 1653, in which the Dutch were defeated, and which virtually ended that war. The next year, 1654, Admiral Goodson commanded the fleet under Penn, at the conquest of Jamaica. When they returned to England, Penn was thrown into the Tower of London, and Goodson was rewarded by the Council of State with a large gratuity. On the death of Cromwell in 1659, Admiral Goodson and his son-in-law, the father of Sir Charles Wager, "dreading a renewal of civil bloodshed," implored Monk to listen to terms of accommodation with the committee of safety, composed of army officers. This accommodation resulted in the restoration of the Stuarts, and the retirement of Goodson. Wager, his son-in-law, remained in the navy, and died in 1665. Goodson was superseded, it is said, on account of "conformity."

The Wagers were connected with, or allied to, the family of Sir Thomas Teddeman, into which family captain John

Hull married. It would be interesting to know if Charles Wager, the orphan grandson of Admiral Goodson, was brought to Newport by Admiral Goodson, or through the influence of the Teddemans he was put an apprentice to Captain Hull, in England. One account says that Wager came to Newport when an infant, and another account says that he came when a youth. It is quite certain that the character of this remarkable man was moulded and formed in Newport.

In 1775, a party from the British fleet, under command of Captain Wallace, went to Conanicut, killed one John Martin, and burned several dwelling houses, among which was the dwelling of Wager Hull, which contained most of the "old papers" belonging to the Hull family. Had these papers been preserved, no doubt but that they would have reflected light upon the lives of Admiral Goodson and Sir Charles Wager.

## JAMES LILLIBRIDGE.

This extraordinary person is said to have been born in Exeter, Rhode Island, about the year 1765, but no mention of his birth appears upon the records of Exeter, or of his mother having resided in that town. They resided in Newport before 1774. He was the natural child of a Miss Mowrey. He was known by the name of his reputed father James Lillibridge.

He lived on the Long Wharf in Newport, with his mother and sisters, in the house now known as "the Bohanna house." It is said that his mother and sisters were disreputable persons, and that in consequence of a family quarrel, he left home and went to sea. Lillibridge changed his surname to that of Murray, and was afterwards known as James Murray. He was bound as an apprentice to some mechanical trade before going to sea. After following the seas for a time he arrived at Tranquebar, on the coast of Coromandel, about 1790, and sometime in that year, having heard that certain Frenchmen, who had entered the service of the Indian princes, had arisen rapidly in rank and fortune, he determined to hazard the evasion of the vigilance of the British officers, and to take service under some one of the Mahratta chiefs. He reached the province and entered the service of Holkar, one of the most formidable of these chiefs. Instead of uniting against the common enemy, these petty sovereigns for a half century had been engaged in an intestine warfare. In the hazardous enterprises of these inglorious wars, Murray "became conspicuous for his invincible courage and undaunted presence of mind, as well as for his personal prow-

ess." He remained in the Mahratta service for fifteen years, during which he was actively engaged in every species of peril and hardship known to that terrible warfare, from Cape Cormorin to the borders of Persia.

An act of humanity finally brought him to the notice of the British government in India, and alienated him from the prince whom he had so faithfully served. A number of British officers had been taken prisoners, by him, to Holkar, and by Holkar had been ordered to be instantly put to the sword. At the imminent risk of his own life, Murray interposed to save the lives of these officers. This act relaxed his hold upon Holkar, and disgusted Murray with the service of his barbarous master: so Murray contrived to get possession of a considerable district of country which he subjected to his own government. So desperate was his fortune at one time, that his whole force was reduced to eight badly armed men, but from this depression he finally succeeded in firmly establishing himself in his new sovereignty. When the war broke out between the British government and Scindia, in which Holkar embraced the cause of the latter, Murray surrendered his sovereignty and proclaimed the supremacy of the British government in his principality, and at the head of seven thousand native cavalry he entered the service of the British government under Lord Lake. It is said that the British general received him with the greatest respect, and that the fullest confidence was reposed in him. He retained the independent command which he brought to the British service, and was actively employed in the most daring and dangerous enterprises of that terrible war.

At the siege of Bhuntpore, where the British army lost nearly ten thousand men in four successive attempts to storm the place, Murray was in continual action, and earned the title of being "the best partisan officer in India." At this time Holkar was in command of an immense body of Indian cavalry on the flank of the English army, and Murray had the opportunity of meeting his old chieftain where they could



settle their old quarrel, an opportunity of which it is but fair to suppose was fully availed of by the partisan warrior.

Murray had acquired a large fortune, and at the conclusion of the war his rank was reduced and he was retired from the army on half pay. Upon this being done he determined to return to his native country and "live a life of luxury and tranquility."

The officers of the army to whose country he had rendered such distinguished services while the war was going on, treated him with the greatest consideration, but upon the restoration of peace they treated him with comparative indifference; this, no doubt, assisted him to form his resolution to return to his own country. He remitted his funds to Calcutta, and shortly after repaired thither, determined to take passage from thence to the United States. This was in 1806. He was then yet in the prime of life, and might well hope for distinction in his own country.

A few days before the time fixed for his embarkation he gave a splendid entertainment to his acquaintances in Calcutta. After dinner, when elated with wine, he undertook the entertainment of his guests by riding his Arabian charger, which had carried him in the war, over the dining table. The horse's foot became entangled in the carpet, and threw his rider. Murray received internal injuries, which induced mortification, and he died in a few days. He was said to have been the best horseman in India, and unrivalled in the use of the broad sword. He is described as having been in ordinary life, a mild and amiable man, but when aroused into anger he became ferocious and ungovernable. He was of middling height, pleasing expression of countenance, and had great bodily strength and agility. He is said to have been attacked upon one occasion by seven Mahratta horsemen, of whom he killed three, and then effected his escape from the other four. "Many were his wild and romantic adventures, and hair breadth escapes, but their history is but imperfectly known, for he was modest and not given to boasting of his own exploits. Though he had been from his home

since his boyhood, he retained a wonderful attachment for his native country, and he sometimes loaned considerable sums of money to persons upon no other assurance than that they were Americans." After his death a portion of his fortune, some \$20,000 it is said, was transmitted to his mother and sisters at Newport, upon the receipt of which they changed their residence, and became candidates for respectability, but they afterwards returned to Newport.

Such is a brief outline of a man who, without the advantages of an education, went out into the world in search of adventures and to seek his fortune. He fought nabobs, rajahs, natives of the country, and British soldiers on the opposite side of the globe. The history of India for twenty years is the record of his achievements and of his wonderful daring. He not only fought Scindia, but the forces of the nabobs of Arcot, of Oudre and Surat, and under the direction of Major General Arthur Wellesly, afterwards Duke of Wellington, and Lord Lake, he took Indore and Malwa, and with equal valor he fought on the plains, in the mountain passes, and among the jungles of Hindoostan, either under the cross of St. George, or in defence of the claims of some native master. The most marked tribute of his power in the field is the inference to be drawn from an article in the treaty finally entered into between the governor general of India and Scindia, that the latter should never thereafter take an American into his service or permit one to enter his dominions

# Appendix.



## APPENDIX.

(a.) The first settlers of Newport found the present site of the city a thickly wooded swamp. It is said that tall forest trees were then growing from the bottom to the summit of the hill. That these were first cut away, until they came down to low, marshy ground, made impenetrable by a dense underbrush. Nicholas Easton, William Brenton, and Thomas Hazard are said to have contracted with three Indians to clear up the underbrush for a coat ; the large brass buttons on which were taken off, strung together, and were then used as a necklace or ornament by one of the Indians. The Indians fired the underbrush, and that cleared the low land on the margin of the harbor. Much sand and gravel, it is said, was filled in upon the low ground. Mr. Jaffrey, William Dyer, and John Clarke were the committee of the proprietors to lay out the town lots. Thames street was first laid out one mile in length. The first lots were laid off on the north side of what is now Washington Square. To the lots on the east side of Thames street was assigned the space opposite on the west between the street and the water. The first landing place was at a point of land then projecting into the water north of the present site of the Long Wharf. At the time of the first settling of Newport, Brenton's Neck and Goat Island are said to have been covered with large forest trees.

The persons who signed the original compact for settling Newport, were William Coddington, Nicholas Easton, John Coggeshall, William Brenton, John Clarke, Jeremiah Clarke, Thomas Hazard and William Dyer.

The following persons were admitted inhabitants soon after, probably in 1639, viz :

Samuel Hutchinson, Richard Awards, Edward Wilcox, John Briggs, William Writhington, Samuel Gorton, John Wickes, Ralph Earle, William Cowlie, Jeffrey Champlin, Richard Sarle, Thomas Spicer, Robert Potter, Nathaniel Potter, William Needham, Sampson Shatton, Adam Mott, John Mott, Robert Jeffreys, Thomas Hill, James Tarr, John Roome, Robert Gilham, Mathew Sutherland, William Baker, Anthony Paine, William Richardson, Thomas Clarke, John Johnson, William Hall, George Gardiner, George Parker, Erasmus Bullock, George Cleet, Nicholas Browne, Richard Borden, Richard Maxon, John Sloff, Thomas Beeder, John Tripp, Osmond Douth, John Marshall, Robert Stanton, Joseph Clarke, Robert Carr, George Layton, John Arnold, William Havens, Thomas Layton, Edward Poole, Nicholas Davis, John Moore, George Potter, William Quick.

## ANN HUTCHINSON.

(1.) Ann Hutchinson removed to East Chester, in the colony of New York, where after much opposition from the Indians she succeeded in building a frame house. But she had not dwelt there long when the Indians had a quarrel with some Dutch people that dwelt near her, but the dint of the rage of the Indians fell upon this gentlewoman whom they slew, with all of her family, to the number of sixteen, (embracing one or more of the children of John Sanford, of Portsmouth,) and left but one little girl, a relative of the family, whom the Indians carried into captivity. She was afterwards redeemed and married a man by the name of Cole, in North Kingstown, where she lived to a considerable age. See Niles' *French and Indian Wars*, p. 201. *Savage Gen. Die.* v. 4, Tit. John Sanford.

## WILLIAM HUTCHINSON.

(2.) William Hutchinson died in Portsmouth in 1642, aged 56 years. He was the husband of the celebrated Ann Hutchinson. Edward Hutchinson and Edward Hutchinson, Jr., returned to Massachusetts and the latter was killed at Brookfield, in Philip's war, in 1675. Edward was the ancestor of the celebrated tory Governor Hutchinson. Governor Hutchinson and Lieutenant Governor Oliver married two daughters of William Sanford of Newport. The Hutchinson farm in Jamestown, with the farm owned by the late Andrew Robeson in Tiverton, and other Hutchinson lands, were confiscated.

## WILLIAM ASPINWALL.

(3.) William Aspinwall, after going to New Haven, returned to Massachusetts and was there a clerk of the court. He died in Boston. He was one of the earliest members of the Boston church and one of its deacons.

## WILLIAM DYER.

(4.) William Dyer, one of the first settlers, was the husband of Mary Dyer, who was hung on Boston Common. He was the leader of the anti-Coddington party, and went to England at his own expense to aid in procuring the revocation of Coddington's commission as judge for life, and returned the bearer of a letter from the Council of State, revoking the commission. He was Attorney General of the Colony in 1650, and was the first person who filled that office. He had assigned to him a tract of land adjoining the harbor between Coddington's Point and Easton's Point. He died in Newport and left descendants.

## JOHN SANFORD.

(5.) John Sanford was a member of the Boston church in 1631, was admitted a freeman April 3d, 1632, and the same year was appointed Cannoneer at the port. He had a son John who was baptized June 24th, 1632; Samuel, June 2d, 1634. In December, 1637, he was disarmed as a supporter of Wheelwright and came to and was one of the founders of the Colony at Rhode Island. He resided at Portsmouth and was successively Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant and President of the Colony. He had two sons, John and Samuel, and several daughters. One or more of his children were with Mrs. Hutchinson, and were taken by the Indians when they killed her. His son John married April 17th, 1663, Mary, the daughter of Samuel Gorton, and widow of Peter Greene. They had a daughter Eliphaz Feb. 20, 1666; John, June 18th, 1670, and Samuel, Oct. 5th, 1677. By a previous marriage with Elizabeth Spatchurst he had three daughters. Samuel, son of the first John, came to Portsmouth and married Sarah Waddell in October, 1662. They also had a son John.

## SAMUEL WILBOUR.

(6.) Samuel Wilbour married the daughter of John Porter, and afterwards went to Little Compton and died there. He was the ancestor of the Wilbour family in that town.

## THOMAS SAVAGE.

(7.) Thomas Savage, the son-in-law of Ann Hutchinson, returned to Boston, as did William Baulston. (10.)

## RICHARD CARDER.

(8.) Richard Carder removed to Warwick, but fled from there to Newport for protection from the Indians during Philip's war. He died in Newport in 1676, but his family returned to Warwick.

## JOHN PORTER AND RICHARD HOLDEN.

(9.) John Porter and Randall Holden (18) also removed to Warwick and died there.

## WILLIAM FREEBORN.

(11.) William Freeborn, one of the first settlers, died at Portsmouth, June 3d, 1670, aged eighty years. He was the founder of "the Freeborn family" on the island of Rhode Island.

## HENRY BULL.

(12.) Henry Bull was one of the first settlers of Newport. He was a native of Wales, and was the first sergeant of the colony. He was one of the assistants, a deputy from Newport, and Governor of the colony. He built the stone house which is yet standing on the east side of Spring street, and owned a considerable tract of land in that neighborhood, some of which remains in the hands of his lineal descendants. He was the last survivor of the original colonists and died Feb. 22d, 1694, at the age of 84 years. He was buried in the Coddington burying-ground.

## JOHN WALKER.

(13.) John Walker was admitted a freeman of Massachusetts, May 14th, 1634. He had been a member of the church at Roxbury, but, says Savage, he removed to Boston to find a wider sympathy for his heresy, where he was disarmed with the major part of his fellow-worshippers, in November, 1637; and soon after he removed to Rhode Island. He joined the Newport colony, March 12th, 1640, and his name last appears on the roll of freemen for Newport, March 16th, 1641.

William Brenton, Nicholas Easton and Richard Carder were not among the first comers at Portsmouth, but the two former, with Jeremiah Clarke and Thomas Hazard, signed the compact to settle Newport.

## JOHN CLARKE.

(14.) John Clarke is said to have been a native of Bedfordshire, England. He was a physician and practiced in London before he came to America. He settled in Boston and there practiced his profession, protested against the censure of Wheelwright, was disarmed, and came to Rhode Island, and was one of the founders there. Dr. Clarke was a man of learning, and after he came to Newport conducted public worship before Mr. Lenthall came, but after the arrival of Lenthall he (Lenthall) officiated as preacher at Newport while he remained here. Dr. C. was the first educated physician who practiced in Rhode Island. In 1643 or 44 he, with others, formed a church upon the faith and order of the Baptists, in which he preached, and at the same time he practiced as a physician. He continued to be pastor of the church until he was sent to England as the agent of 65 persons from Newport, and 41 persons from Portsmouth, to procure the revocation of Coddington's commission. He became the agent of the colony, and remained abroad twelve years. Upon his petition the charter of 1663 was granted. As much of the petition of Dr. Clarke is incorporated into the charter, it may be inferred that he prepared that document which will always stand a monument to his liberality, ability and address. While abroad in the service of the colony, he was under

the necessity of laboring there for his own support, and expended much of his private fortune in promoting the interest of the colony. He was reduced to the necessity of mortgaging his house and lot in Newport to Richard Dean of London, for £140 sterling. In September, 1666, the colony assumed the payment of this mortgage, and probably paid it about 1672, the intervening time being employed in endeavoring to raise the money, with which to discharge the mortgage. The town of Warwick behaved with great illiberality in this matter. Dr. Clarke returned to Newport in 1664, and was immediately elected a deputy from Newport. In 1669 he was elected Deputy Governor. He was appointed to go to England again in 1671, in reference to the boundary between Rhode Island and Connecticut. He died in 1676 in Newport, aged 66 years, and was buried in his own lot on the west side of Tanner street. By his will he left his estate consisting of "the Charity farms" in Middletown, for the support of the poor, and for bringing up children to learning. He was thrice married, but died without issue.

#### JOHN COGGESHALL.

(15.) John Coggeshall was often elected to the General Court of Massachusetts, from which he was expelled. He was one of the first settlers of Newport. He had assigned to him a large tract of land bordering on the sea, east of what is now known as Almy's Pond. He was a man of good abilities. He died in 1647 at the age of 56, and was buried in "the Coggeshall burying ground," on the west side of Coggeshall Avenue. He left numerous descendants.

#### PHILIP SHERMAN.

(16.) Philip Sherman remained at Portsmouth, where he died in 1676. He was recorder of the colony, and his descendants remaining in Rhode Island are more numerous than of any other of "the first comers."

#### WILLIAM CODDINGTON.

(17.) William Coddington was appointed one of the assistants in the Massachusetts colony before he emigrated to this country. He came from Lincolnshire. He was a fellow passenger from England with Governor John Winthrop, on board of the *Arabella*. They arrived at Salem, June 12th, 1630. He was several times chosen an assistant in Massachusetts, but was left out of the magistracy upon the defeat of Governor Vane in 1637. But the freemen of Boston chose him and Vane the next day to be deputies to their General Court. Coddington expressed his displeasure in losing his office by sitting with the deacons at public worship, instead of with the magistrates, and on a fast day he went to Mount Wollaston to hear Mr. Wheelwright. In opposition to Gov. Winthrop he defended Mrs. Hutchinson in her trial, and opposed the proceedings of the court against Wheelwright. His exertions were unavailing, and he relinquished a prosperous business as a merchant in Boston, and his large property and improvements in Braintree, and removed to Rhode Island, April 26th, 1638. He went to England in 1651, and procured a commission as Governor for life. He died in Newport in 1678, aged 78 years. His grandson was Governor of the Rhode Island colony in 1738. Governor Coddington's estate in Newport was bounded by Thames, Marlborough, Farewell and North Baptist streets. His house stood where the house of Samuel Sterne now stands, on the north side of Marlborough street, opposite Duke street.

#### NICHOLAS EASTON.

(18.) Nicholas Easton was by trade a tanner. He came from Wales, and arrived in New England May 14th 1634 and went to Ipswich. Was in Newbury in 1635 with his wife and son John. In 1636 he was the architect of a house built by the colony at Newbury called the Bound House. In 1637, Nov. 20th, he was disarmed. March 12th, 1637-8, he had obtained license to remove his family from Massachusetts, and the General Court having received information that he only intended



to withdraw for a season, the court ordered that he might depart with his family before the next court, and if he did not, to appear at that court and abide the further order of the court therein. June 8th, 1638, the General Court ordered that the magistrates of Ipswich shall have power to discharge Mr. Easton from building at Winnacumnet, and if he did not take warning to clear the place of him. He came to Newport with his two sons, John and Peter. He built the first frame house there, on a lot of land adjoining the northwest corner of the Friends' Meeting House lot on Farewell street.

WILLIAM BRENTON.

(20.) William Brenton came to America as a surveyor, bearing the commission of Charles I. to survey the crown lands in America under a contract that he was to have a share of the lands surveyed. He settled in Boston in 1634. As a member of the General Court he opposed the censuring of Wheelwright and Hutchinson. Mr. Brenton was one of the early settlers of Newport. He had a town lot assigned to him extending back from the harbor to Spring street, bounded north on Mary street, and extending south to what is now Cotton's Court, with the entire neck including the site of Fort Adams and the Rocky Farm. He owned 10,000 acres of land in New Hampshire, in what is now Litchfield. He built a house 150 feet square in Brenton's neck, where the H. T. Battey house now stands. He owned, also, an estate in Taunton. He died between the 20th of August and 13th of November, 1674. He was Governor of the colony and held other important offices. At his decease he left three sons—Jahleel, William and Ebenezer, and several daughters.

Jahleel manned a schooner when he was but twenty-one years of age, and went to the rescue of the inhabitants of Providence at the time the town was burned by the Indians in 1676. He was afterwards collector of the customs at Boston, but eventually returned to Newport where he died without issue in 1732, aged 77 years, and was buried at what is now Fort Adams. Jahleel Brenton divided his estates in Newport to his nephew, Jahleel. William Brenton removed to Bristol, where he died, and was buried in his farm at Pauquasquash. He left two sons, Jahleel and Benjamin. Benjamin Brenton died at the age of 93 and was buried on his farm in South Kingstown. Admiral Sir Jahleel Brenton and Capt. Edward Pelham of the British Navy, and Sir Brenton Halliburton, all natives of Newport, were the descendants of Jahleel Brenton. The Brenton house on the east side of Thames street was built about 1720.

## DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

(21.) Dr. Benjamin Franklin had three brothers who resided in Newport, John, James, with whom the Doctor learned the printer's trade, and Peter.

James Franklin was born in Boston in 1689, and died in Newport in 1734, aged 36 years. In 1719 he published the *Boston Gazette*. In 1721 he established the *New England Courant*. The earliest essays of Dr. Benjamin Franklin were published in the *Courant*. The religious articles of the Doctor were regarded as being of a skeptical character, and James, the publisher, was arrested and imprisoned for their publication. James afterwards came to Newport, and it is said started the first newspaper published in Rhode Island in 1727. It is certain that he published a newspaper here in 1732, in which year he became printer to the colony and undertook to print 20 copies of the public acts of that year for £20. There are books extant that were published by him, some that were published by his widow, and some by his son James, who established the *Newport Mercury* in 1758.

We gather the following from Dr. Franklin's correspondence in reference to the members of his family who resided at Newport :

In 1724 Dr. Franklin on a return from his first visit to Boston, after he had removed to Philadelphia, says : "The sloop putting in at Newport, Rhode Island, I visited my brother John who had been married and settled there some years. He received me very affectionately for he always loved me."

Ten years later (1734) Dr. Franklin having become easy in his circumstances made a journey to Boston to visit his relatives. In returning he called at Newport to see his brother James, then settled here with his printing house. Their former differences were forgotten and their meeting was cordial and affectionate. James was then fast declining in his health, and requested his brother in the event of his (James') death, which he apprehended not far distant, to take home his (James') son, James Franklin, then but ten years of age, and bring him up to the printing business. With this request the Dr. complied, but first sent the boy to school for a few years. The boy's mother carried on the business until the boy was grown up, when the Dr. gave him an assortment of type, and thereby made amends to the boy's father for leaving his employment before the Doctor had served out his apprenticeship.

Peter Franklin, the last surviving brother of Dr. Franklin, died July 1st, 1766, in the 74th year of his age. He had formerly resided at Newport, but at the time of his death he was deputy postmaster of Philadelphia.

January 9th, 1760, Dr. Franklin in a letter to his sister, Mrs. Mecomme, says, that of the 17 children born to their father and mother, 13 lived to grow up, and that but three then survived. Peter was then one of the survivors.

In a letter to Mrs. Governor Greene, dated August 1st, 1763, Dr. Franklin says that "my brother has returned to Rhode Island." Of course this reference is to Peter, who had not then gone to Philadelphia.

In a letter to his sister Mecomme, Dr. Franklin writes : "Jemmy Franklin, when with me, was always dissatisfied and grumbling." This latter was probably written between 1743 and 1749.

Dr. Franklin was probably the debtor of his brother John as late as 1752, for May 1st of that year he writes his sister Mecomme, enclosing her six pistoles, and tells her to hand to John the amount if she received the sum on a draft he had previously sent her, and to have John credit the amount in the Doctor's account.

(21 a.) The following is the list of privateer commanders:—George W. Babcock, Oliver Read, John Grimes, Benjamin Pearce, Joseph L. Gardner, William Dennis, James Godfrey, Thomas Stacy, Christopher Bently, Samuel Jeffers, Joseph Jaques, Thomas Foster, Joseph Crandall, Ezekiel Burroughs, Isaac Freeborn, Peter Gazee, William Ladd, John Murphy, John Coggeshall, William Finch, Thomas Dring, Samuel Walker, James Phillips, Remembrome Simmons, Joseph Sheffield.

## ARTHUR BROWN.

(22.) Arthur Brown was the son of the Rev. Marmaduke Brown, rector of Trinity Church in Newport. The Rev. Marmaduke Brown was the rector of that church from sometime in the year 1760 until his decease in 1761. In 1795 his son, Arthur Brown, caused to be erected a mural monument in Trinity church to the memory of his father and mother, upon which is the following inscription in reference to himself, viz: "This monument was erected by their son, Arthur Brown, Esq., now senior fellow, of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, and Representative in Parliament for the same. In token of his gratitude and affection to the best and tenderest of parents, *and his respect and love for a congregation among whom and for a place where he spent his earliest and happiest days.*" In the year 1798 Dr. Brown stated to Captain David M. Coggeshall, in Dublin, that "he was born in Newport in a house near the Redwood Library," probably "the old parsonage," now owned by Mr. William Fludder. Brown remained here until he was seventeen years of age. Writing in 1798, Dr. Brown says: "The face of the country was beautiful beyond description; it was composed of woods of no very great magnitude, perhaps of half a mile or a mile in diameter, interspersed with most charming lawns. The effect which is produced in a few demesnes of our nobility by so much art, was there universally wrought by nature, with the little aid of man in clearing its too great exuberances. \* \* \* Rhode Island throughout answered this character, but alas, I am told the former war did not leave a single timber tree."

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Newport, in Rhode Island, used to send out annually 400 sail of shipping, small and large. \* \* \* Every one knows what immense channels of commerce have opened since, and how soon America launched forth even to China and Nootka Sound."

"The climate of Rhode Island, often called the garden and Montpelier of America, induced such numbers of wealthy persons from the southward to reside there in summer, that it was ludicrously called the Carolina hospital."

In reference to an important question which is now disturbing antiquarians as to when the revolution commenced, he says: "The discontents of America are usually dated from the stamp act in 1765, but they really originated in 1763, immediately after the peace. from the interdiction of their trade with the Spanish main. It was the only trade which brought specie into the country, and hence no money was seen except paper, saving half johannas, dollars, pistereens; a guinea or English crown was seldom seen. The depression of the value of paper money was greater in Rhode Island than anywhere else, a paper dollar bearing the nominal value of eight pounds. I myself saw one American fort fire upon the Squirrel, a king's ship, in 1764, in the harbor of Newport."

Speaking of the schools in New England he says. "Of their schools, self-love naturally inclines the author to give a favorable account, *he having never received any school education elsewhere*, yet their teachers were often from Europe, and it was his own fate to be instructed by a German and a Scotchman."

He says of the Redwood Library: "The library at Rhode Island, though built of wood, was a structure of uncommon beauty; I remember it with admiration, and I could once appeal to the known taste of an old school fellow, Stuart, the

painter, who had the same feeling towards it. It was sacked of its books by the British army, as was the college of Princeton in the Jerseys. A college military corps existed at Cambridge *before I left it.*"

Arthur Brown, in Dublin, soon arose to great eminence. He became Senior Fellow and Senior Proctor of Trinity College, a Doctor of Civil Law, and King's Professor of Greek. For a time he held the Vicar Generalship of Kildar, and practiced in the courts as an eminent barrister."

"For many years no person in the university enjoyed greater popularity. They gave him their best and most honorable gifts. They appointed him their representative in the National Legislature, and for years the Irish House of Commons listened with surprise and admiration to his bold and powerful language."

Dr. Brown was the author of "A Compendious View of Ecclesiastical Law." "Lectures as professor of Civil Law in the University of Dublin." "Brown's View of the Civil Law and Law of Admiralty." "Hussen O'Die," a poem translated from the Persian language, and two volumes of miscellaneous writings.

He died in Dublin in the summer of 1805.

#### AUGUSTUS JOHNSTON.

(23.) Augustus Johnston's house was in Division street ; Dr. Thomas Moffatt's in Broad street, and Martin Howard's in Spring street.

#### CHARLES DUDLEY.

(24.) Charles Dudley, the King's Collector of Customs at Newport, who fled to the British ship *Rose*, as a refuge from the wrath of the populace, came over from England in 1765. He married a daughter of Robert Cook, of Newport. Mr. Dudley went to England with his family, where he died soon after. His family afterwards returned to America. His son, the late Mr. Charles Dudley, settled in Albany where he became a distinguished and wealthy citizen, and where his name is perpetuated by "The Dudley Observatory."

Mr. Charles Dudley, senior, when he was collector in Newport, occupied the house in Middletown, built by Matthew Cozzens, merchant of Newport, who died in Charleston, S. C., December 1780.

A letter written by Mr. Dudley, and now in the British State Paper Office, says: "The attack upon the *Gaspee* was not the effect of sudden passion and resentment, but of cool deliberation and forethought. It had long been determined that she should be destroyed."

In October, 1776, John Smith was appointed by the General Assembly to sell all of the effects of George Rome and Charles Dudley in possession of the State, excepting the screws and bars and the effects in Nathan Miller's hands, and the articles excepted were to be sold by Josias Lyndon.

#### JOSEPH WANTON.

(25.) Joseph Wanton was the son of William Wanton, who died in 1733, Governor of the colony. Governor William Wanton in early life commanded a privateer out of Newport. Joseph held many important offices under the colony, but it is said that he had the misfortune to inherit from his father a quarrel with the Ward family, which induced him to promote the interest of Stephen Hopkins against Samuel Ward, and when Ward and Hopkins became united in support of the colonies, it is not impossible that Wanton, who had been an outspoken advocate of the rights of the colonies, was turned to the support of the crown by his hostility to the Wards. In 1775 he was removed from office by the General Assembly. He married a daughter of Governor Winthrop of Connecticut. Two of the sons of Governor Joseph Wanton, Joseph and William, were wealthy merchants of Newport. The former left with the British and died in New York. William,

after the peace, was appointed collector of St. Johns, New Brunswick, and resided there. The sons had large estates, which were confiscated. Governor Joseph Wanton died in A.D. 1780, aged 75 years, and was buried in the Clifton burying ground.

#### SOLOMON SOUTHWICK.

(26.) Solomon Southwick was born in Newport about 1731. He was the son of a fisherman. His intelligent appearance attracted the attention of Henry Collins, the eminent merchant and philanthropist, who sent Southwick to school, and was the means of giving him a good education. After completing his studies, Southwick taught a school in Newport for several years. He then engaged in mercantile affairs in which he was unsuccessful. About 1764 he purchased from the heirs of James Franklin, the Newport Mercury, and the printing establishment then connected with that paper. The paper was outspoken in favor of the rights of the colonies. He was among the early book publishers of New England, and had an extensive establishment for that time employed in that business, and there are many books yet extant which bear his imprint. At the breaking out of the war he was engaged in a very prosperous business which he was forced to abandon with the most of his property. He then removed to Providence, and was in the service of the State at the head of its commissariat. He returned to Newport after the peace, and was postmaster there for a time, under the confederation, and afterwards, for three or four years was a partner in the Mercury establishment. He died in Newport, December 23d, 1797, aged 66 years. He left four sons and one daughter. His eldest son, Solomon Southwick, removed to Albany, where he was editor of the Albany Register, a leading Democratic paper in the State of New York. He died in Albany in 1839.

#### REV. EZRA STILES, D.D.

(27.) Upon the death of the Rev. Mr. Searing, the Rev. Samuel Fairweather was made pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Newport in 1754, but in consequence of an occurrence at a dinner at Godfrey Malbone's, he left the church in 1755, and soon after left the denomination. The Rev. Ezra Stiles was the successor of Mr. Fairweather, and was settled pastor of that church in 1755. He was, perhaps, the most learned man of his time in America, and was one of the firmest advocates of the rights of the colonies in their struggle with Great Britain for national existence and independence. He, with a considerable portion of his congregation, was driven away from Newport upon the breaking out of the war.

In 1777 he was made President of Yale College, but was not formerly dismissed from his pastoral office in Newport until 1786. He died May 12th, 1795, in the 68th year of his age. His diary, now in the custody of Yale College, is said to contain much interesting matter pertaining to the history of Newport. He had a daughter who married Abiel Holmes, the author of "Holmes' Annals," and she was the mother of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

#### REV. SAMUEL HOPKINS, D.D.

(28.) Dr. Hopkins preached his first sermon to the First Congregational Church in Newport, July 23d, 1769. After preaching to the congregation for a time, a satirical pamphlet written, by the Rev. William Hart, on Dr. Hopkins and his religious dogmas, was circulated among the congregation, and induced a considerable opposition to, and delayed the Doctor's installation in the pastoral office of this society to April 11th, 1770. He died in Newport, December 20th, 1803, in the 83d year of his age. He was pastor of the Newport church for more than thirty-three years. Dr. Hopkins wrote an autobiography of himself, which was published after his decease, with notes, by the Rev. Stephen West. Reminiscences of his life by the Rev. Dr. William Patten; a memoir of his life and character by the

Rev. John Ferguson, with a memoir of his life and character by the Rev. Edward A. Park, have all been published and are accessible to those who desire to investigate the character and teachings of this great man. Doctor Hopkins wrote and published many books, and was the means of many books being published by others. He was, perhaps, the earliest American who publicly denounced the African slave trade, and who favored the entire abolition of slavery, and was among the first to denounce the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and to favor the prohibition of the liquor traffic. He was an ardent whig before and during the revolution, and though he disliked "the slavery clauses," he favored the adoption of the Federal constitution. Though he was an unpopular preacher, and wrote upon unpopular subjects, few men made a deeper impression upon the public mind than did this eminent divine. His dialogue upon the subject of slavery, his biography of Jonathan Edwards, his lives of Susanna Anthony and Hannah Osborne, though not among his most important works, were much read and highly appreciated upon their publication both in this country and in Great Britain; and his dialogue upon the subject of slavery was one of the first and one of the most able and influential papers ever published upon that subject. Withal, he was an humble, self-denying and faithful Christian.

Under the first charter, May 18th, 1652, Rhode Island passed an act against the importation of negroes into the colony. In 1675-6, a law was passed to prohibit Indian bondage, and in 1715 an act was passed to prohibit the importation of Indian slaves. Yet, afterwards, Rhode Island became deeply involved in the slave trade, and Newport was the centre of this traffic. When in 1770 Dr. Hopkins preached from his pulpit in Newport his first sermon against the slave traffic, Whittier says: "It well may be doubted whether on that Sabbath day the angels of God, in their wide survey of the universe, looked upon a nobler spectacle than that of the minister of Newport, rising up before his slaveholding congregation and demanding in the name of the Highest the deliverance of the captive and the opening of prison doors to those that were bound!" The colony of Rhode Island in June, 1774, passed a law prohibiting the bringing of slaves into the colony, and in 1784 the Legislature enacted that all children born after March 1st, 1785, should be free. Of the passage of these acts Dr. Hopkins was an ardent advocate. Dr. Hopkins, after the revolution, was very poor, and sometimes was scantily provided even with the necessities of life, yet, upon his receiving nine hundred dollars for the copyright of his "System of Divinity," it is said by one writer that he gave one hundred dollars, and by another that he gave one half of the amount to an anti-slavery society in Rhode Island, and notwithstanding his great poverty he actually purchased upon his own credit the freedom of one pious African, with the view of educating him as a missionary and sending him to Africa, for Dr. Hopkins hoped to destroy the slave trade by evangelizing and educating the natives of Africa in their own country.

#### THE LORD SANDWICH.

(29.) List of persons imprisoned by the British on board the Lord Sandwich, viz: Capt. Ebenezer Vose, Job Easton, Thomas Richardson, Nathaniel Grafton John Haven, Robert Taylor, Joseph Allen, Samuel Yates, Ezra Fope, Ebenezer Carr, Mr. Devens, Mr. Rider, Joseph Gurdon, John Townsend, Joshua Rathbone, S. Billings, Charles Cahoon, John Arnold, John Harrod, John Hubbard, Edward Simmons, William Carter, Paul Coffin, Capt. Church, Edward Church, Benjamin Church, Jr., Major Fairchilds, Jonathan Yates, Isaac Dayton, William Dillingham, Samuel Carr, John Bradley, John Gardner, Sherman Clarke, Gideon Wanton, Joseph Bissel, John Cahoon, Higgins Landers, John Lawton, Harry Oman, Thomas Peekham, Richard Thomas, John Bull, Charles Vigneron, Henry Irish, Thomas Howland, Daniel Fullows, Hanson Hull, Nathan Luther, William Langley, John Greene, Daniel Smith, Edward Murphy, Benjamin Marshall, Samuel Vinson, Joseph Tillinghast, Jonathan Hull, Elisha Lawton, Lee Langley, Peter Langley, William Downer.



## IMPRESSED SEAMEN.

(30) In 1794, during the May session of the Assembly, His Britannic Majesty's ship, the *Nautilus*, arrived in Newport, having on board six American seamen, some of whom, it was alleged, had been impressed into this service. The commanding officer of this vessel was on shore, and was summoned before the General Assembly. The subject was referred to the Judges of the Superior Court, and to the Judge of the U. S. District Court, before whom, in the presence of Consul Moore, Commander Boynton was examined. The General Assembly sent a committee on board of the *Nautilus* to examine as to whether there were American seamen detained there, and while this examination was being made, the judges protected Boynton from the populace, and upon the return of the committee who had reported that six men were detained against their will, Boynton issued an order for their discharge and for the payment of their wages.

## THOMAS DE COURCY.

(31) The Right Honorable Thomas de Courcy, Lord Kinsale, Baron de Courcy and Regrone, late Premier Baron of Ireland, was another distinguished person, whose life was intimately connected with the commerce of Newport. His ancestor, a younger son of the family, emigrated to Newport about 1720. Here, Thomas de Courcy was born and was afterwards bound an apprentice to a Captain Beard of this place. He afterwards enlisted in the navy, and shared in the honor of taking Porto Bello, and while with Admiral Vernon, from that officer De Courcy received intelligence which enabled him to establish his title to the estates and honors of his family.

## DR. BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

(32) Dr. Benj. Waterhouse, physician, naturalist and author, was also a native of Newport, born here in 1754. He was educated at London, Edinburg and Leyden. He was thirty years a professor in Harvard College, and died in Cambridge in 1846, at the advanced age of 92 years.

Dr. Waterhouse remembered the time when Augustus Johnston was Attorney General and Stamp Master, and when Johnston, Martin Howard and Dr. Moffat were hanged in effigy, and when their effigies were afterwards burned on the Newport Parade, and when the contents of their houses and cellars were destroyed by a mob at night. Dr. Waterhouse also remembered Judge Scott, Judge Hazard, William Ellery, William Channing, the father of William Ellery Channing, and Mr. Simpson, the latter an Englishman who practiced law in Newport, but "died in England among other refugees." He just remembered Henry Bull, but knew Judge Lightfoot, who taught him to value and study Lord Bacon, Lock, Newton and Boerhaven. Lightfoot was the oracle of Newport in his time. He was an able, learned and idle man. Honeyman and Marchant, Dr. Waterhouse regarded to be gentlemen of the old school; Varnum he took to be a popular aspirant, and Ellery and his three brothers to be flaming sons of liberty. In his old age, Dr. Waterhouse prophesied that Newport would become the bath of the United States, to which rich invalids would retire to improve their impaired health, and wished that he had some pleasant spot or farm on his native island, to which, if not himself, his invalid posterity might resort to enjoy peace, health and liberty.

Dr. Waterhouse was the author of "Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine," 8 vo. published in 1786; "Lectures on Natural History," 1810; "The Botanist," 1811; "*Oratorio Inaug.* at Harvard University," 1783; "A Book on Vitality," 1790; "Prospect of Exterminating the Small Pox," 1800; "Ascribing Authorship of Junius to the Earl of Chatham," 1831; "Journal of a Young Man of Mass.," 1816.

Dr. Waterhouse was the son of Timothy Waterhouse, and was born in a house fronting on Liberty Square, in Newport.

## THE CHANNING FAMILY.

(35) The founder of this family in Newport was John Channing, who came to Newport about 1715. He left a son, John Channing, and several daughters. John Channing, son of John, was the father of William Channing, who was born in 1751, graduated at Princeton in 1769, studied law with Oliver Arnold, was elected Attorney General in 1777, and annually re-elected up to 1787, when he was turned out of office by the paper money party. In 1791 he was again made Attorney General, and the same year was appointed by General Washington, United States District Attorney, and held both offices up to his death, which occurred September 21, 1793, aged 42 years. He married Lucy Ellery, the daughter of William Ellery, the signer of the Declaration of Independence. They had eleven children, nine of whom survived their father. The eldest son was Francis Dana Channing, of Boston; the second son, William Ellery Channing, the eminent scholar and divine. Two of the younger sons, Dr. Walter and Edward, were professors in Harvard College.

## THE ELLERY FAMILY.

(36) William Ellery was at Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1663. He had a son Benjamin, his third child, born in 1669. He first removed to Bristol, then a part of Massachusetts, but soon removed to Newport. He commanded a letter of marque out of Newport in 1702. He married Abigail, daughter of John Wilkins, of Wiltshire, England, July 30th, 1693. About this time he removed to Newport. They had nine children. William, his eldest son, and third child, was born October 31st, 1701, and graduated at Harvard College in 1722. He became a wealthy merchant in Newport, a Judge, an Assistant and Deputy Governor of the colony of Rhode Island. He married Elizabeth Almy, January 3d, 1722, and died in Newport, March 15th, 1764, leaving three sons and one daughter. William, the second son, was born December 23d, 1727, graduated at Harvard College in 1747, and married Ann Remington, of Cambridge, October 11th, 1750. He settled in Newport and engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1759 he was appointed naval officer of the colony of Rhode Island, and in 1770 he commenced the practice of the law, in which he continued to 1776, when, upon the decease of Samuel Ward, he was elected to the Continental Congress, and there became a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Upon the organization of the federal government under the constitution, he was appointed Collector of the Customs for Newport, and held that office up to his decease, February 15th, 1820.

## THE DECATUR FAMILY.

(37) Stephen Decatur, the ancestor of this family, is said to have been a native of Genoa, and to have come to Rhode Island in 1746. He was naturalized by an act of the General Assembly in 1755. During the war between England and France he was an officer of a privateer, fitted out at Newport. He married, in 1751, Priscilla Hill, a widow, whose maiden name was George. By this marriage he had two sons—Stephen, born in 1752, and John, born in 1754. The son Stephen, the father of the late Commodore Stephen Decatur, was bred to the sea. The Decaturs lived in the old Brayton house, then standing at the head of the Mall, but now is next north of the residence of the late Edward W. Lawton, on the east side of Charles street.

## HENRY COLLINS.

(38) Henry Collins was the son of Arnold and Amy Collins, and was born in Newport, March 25th, 1699. He was educated in England, became a merchant upon his return to Newport, and for a time was very successful, but became bankrupt in 1765, a result brought about by the application of the admiralty rule of 1756. Mr. Collins was a great benefactor of Newport. He was one of the founders of the Redwood Library, and of the Literary Society, out of which it arose, and one of the builders of the Long Wharf and the Granary. He educated several deserving, but poor young men, at his own expense, among them was Solomon Southwick,



and to his liberality posterity are indebted for the portraits of Callender, Berkeley, Clapp, Hitchcock, and perhaps others. Dr. Waterhouse speaks of him as the Lorenzo de Medici of Rhode Island. He died at the house of a friend about 1770. Mr. Collins owned the house on Easton's Point, at what was known as the Gibbs' Ship Yard, which during the revolution belonged to George Rome, and which, in the hard winter of 1780, was torn down and distributed among the poor for fuel.

## ARNOLD FAMILY.

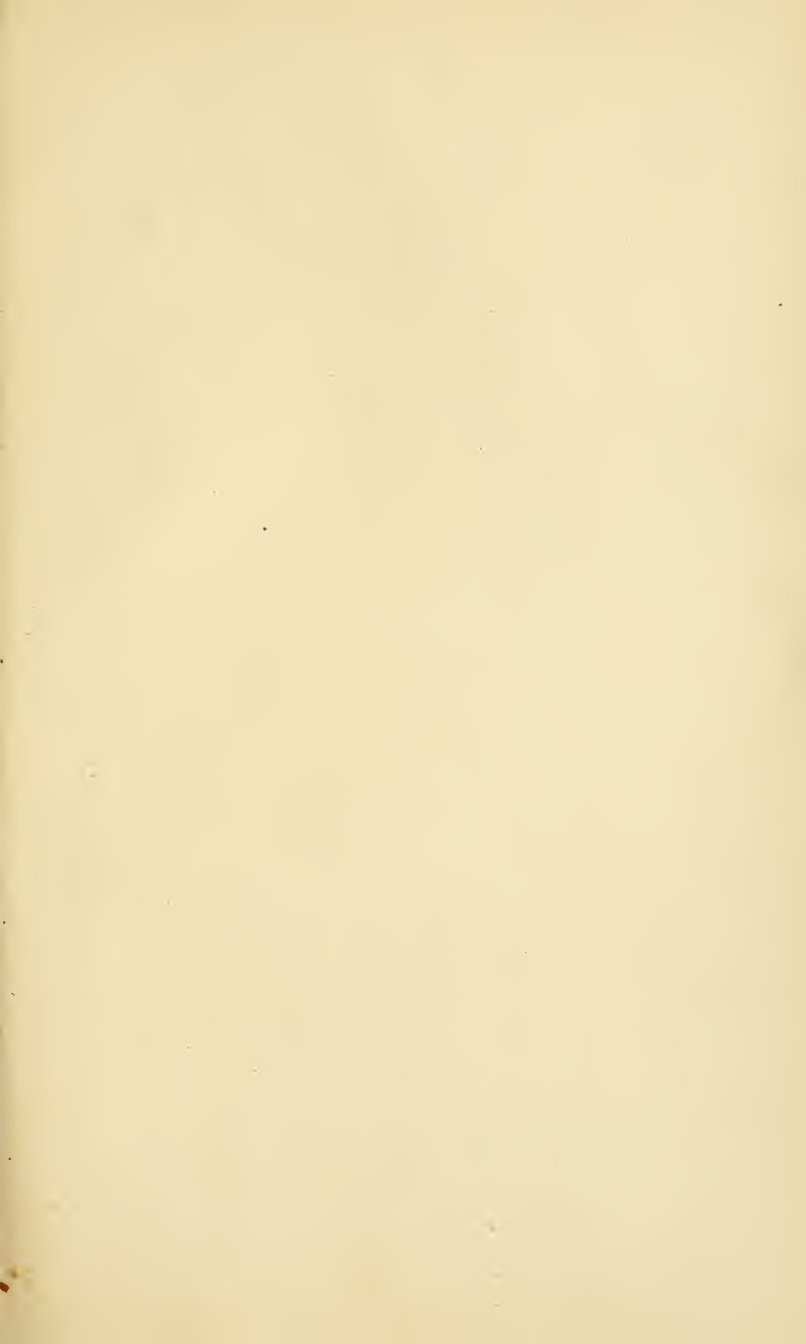
(39) Benedict Arnold came to Newport from Providence in 1653, and was admitted purchaser in Newport. His town lot extended from Mill to Pelham streets, and his house was on the lot belonging to the People's Library. His son Benedict inherited his homestead. One of the daughters of the second Benedict married Edward Pelham, whose two daughters inherited it, one of whom married John Bannister and the other John Cowley. Bannister built a wharf, and so did Cowley. Governor Arnold, the first Benedict, probably erected "the Old Stone Mill." He held many important offices. He was the first Governor under the charter of Charles II. and was often re-elected to that office. He left four sons and three daughters. He died June 9th, 1678, at the age of 63 years, and was buried in a lot adjoining, on the east, the estate of Gov. Van Zandt.

## GOVERNOR GIBBS HOUSE.

The Governor Gibbs house, on the north side of Mill street, was built by John Tillinghast, about 1765. It was afterwards the property of Col. Archibald Crary, who was an officer of the revolution. At the close of the war, General Greene came to Newport and rented and occupied the house. Here he was visited by the Marquis de Lafayette, October 24th, 1784. General Greene took possession of the house, November 25th, 1783, when he was waited upon by the principal inhabitants of the town, and presented with a congratulatory address, to which he made a suitable response. While General Greene resided in this house, he was visited by Kosciusko and by Baron Stuben.















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